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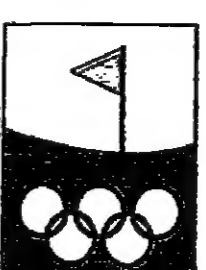
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THE TIMES

No. 64,469 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21 1992 45p

Bank's dual role in coal and gas advice

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

N.M. ROTHSCHILD, the City merchant bank hired by the government as its main independent adviser on the financial viability of the coal industry, has simultaneously been advising the regional electricity companies to increase their investments in the gas-burning power stations that have been largely responsible for the collapse of demand for British coal.

The bank, whose 1991 report on coal for the Department of Trade and Industry foreshadowed with remarkable precision the pit closures announced last week by Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, was the principal financial adviser to all 12 regional electricity companies on their privatisation in 1990. Rothschild also advised the Department of Energy on the privatisation of British Gas and it became the principal adviser to four electricity companies (RECs) once they had been privatised.

While the bank was reviewing the coal industry for the government, it was advising its four REC clients to invest in ten gas-generation projects. These account for 41 per cent of the new gas-fired generating capacity now under construction.

Keith Palmer, the bank's director in charge of the coal industry analysis, denied yesterday that there was any potential conflict of interest between his firm's work on the market prospects for coal, and its involvement with the electricity companies. Mr Palmer said that he had stopped working for his electricity and gas industry clients once he became the government's principal adviser on the future of coal.

He conceded, however, that the bank was still the principal financial adviser to Eastern, Southern, Yorkshire, and South Wales Electricity. Between them these companies have announced investments in 6.54 gigawatts of gas-fired generating capacity, equivalent to 16 million tonnes of annual coal output.

Mr Palmer emphasised that the bank had not been asked by the government to give any opinion about

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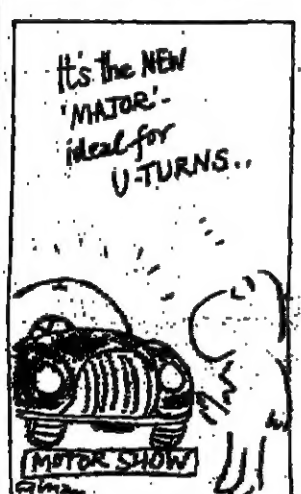
Major to squeeze pay in new battle for recovery

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PAY rises for public sector workers are to be restricted to 2 per cent under a new economic strategy highlighting John Major's determination to "put the recovery first".

The squeeze, affecting five million employees, is designed to leave room in the tough clampdown on public spending for ministers to protect capital projects vital to industry's chances of playing a full part in bringing the country out of recession.

The distinct change of emphasis — which will be spelt out in the Chancellor's Mansion House speech next week and in next month's autumn statement — was signalled after weeks in which the government had been shaken by the fallout from the sterling crisis and the divisions over Europe and on the eve of



today's critical vote on pit closures. New concessions yesterday appeared to have saved off the threat of defeat tonight.

The prime minister is now launching a counter attack on his press and party critics after telling friends that "open season" has been declared on his government. He has also made plain that he has "not a shred of intention" of changing tack over Europe and that he has staked his premiership on getting the treaty through the Commons.

The top item on his agenda, however, is to secure a sustainable recovery and the prime minister has told colleagues that the government will bend all its efforts to that end. He wants to bring interest rates down further, but believes that to do that without reigniting inflation, public spending must be tightly controlled. The autumn statement will therefore mean hard choices if the government is to protect programmes aimed at safeguarding and generating jobs and boosting growth.

Treasury rules stopping private investment in big public

sector projects, such as road and rail links, will be eased. A senior minister said last night: "We will have to be very tough indeed on public sector costs, including the key ingredient of pay." An "artificial expenditure-driven dash for growth" was ruled out.

The Chancellor and his senior colleagues want wage increases to be held to a range of 0-2 per cent, but it is understood that the government will sanction self-financing performance-related pay deals that do not eat into the overall cash ceiling of £244.5 billion.

Details of the squeeze emerged as worried spending ministers warned that the government was in danger of repeating the mistakes it made over the pit closures and triggering another backbench outcry. One said the proposed cuts were ghastly and appalling. He said there would be an "explosion" among Tory MPs once they became aware of the scale of the cutbacks. The outlook for education, health, local government and job training was said to be "grim" as the pay curbs failed to save programmes from drastic surgery. "We are just told there is no money," he said.

Mr Lamont's EDX committee, made up of Michael Portillo, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine, Lord Wakeham, William Waldegrave and Tony Newton, meets today to try to finalise its package of spending cuts. Mr Lamont might then present his proposals to tomorrow's cabinet.

At the same time, the prospect of a new cabinet split was beginning to confront Mr Major. Spending ministers protested that the Chancellor's committee was slashing programmes without regard to the political consequences and called on Mr Major to open up the package to full cabinet scrutiny, to allow ministers to debate the wider ramifications of the squeeze. Drawing parallels with the coal fiasco, in which the cabinet did not discuss the closures until after they had been announced, they said it was imperative that the cabinet was allowed to revise the package to take account of political realities.

In another sign of the growing tensions inside the government over economic policy, Thatcherite ministers were claiming a modest victory in their efforts to persuade the prime minister to make economic recovery, jobs and growth his chief objective.

They said his remarks in the Commons yesterday about seeking policies for recovery showed that Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke were being forced

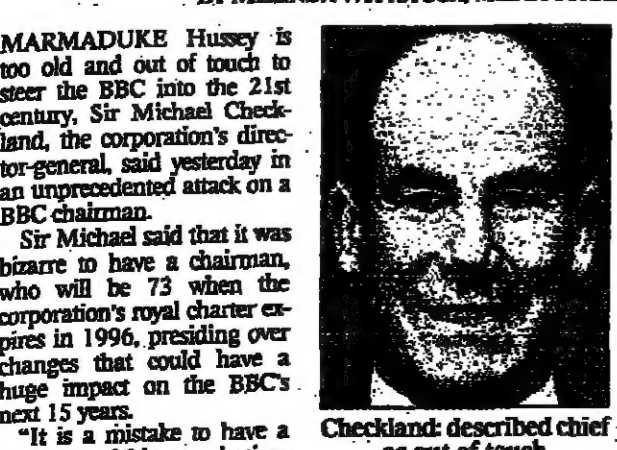
to give ground in their efforts to persuade Mr Major to make curbing inflation the chief aim as a prelude to an early re-entry to the ERM.

As he spoke, the Henley Centre for Forecasting group predicted that consumer spending would remain weak for another three years and money supply figures showed alarming weakness in bank and building society lending in September. But the pound staged a dramatic comeback as the Bundesbank fuelled expectations that German interest rates would fall, and the stock market was caught up by the optimism, closing 54.8 higher at 2,617.

Leading article, page 19
Pound recovers, page 23

Checkland launches 'fuzzy monsters' attack on Hussey

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Checkland: described chief as out of touch

know you are talking about frequency modulation and not fuzzy monsters," he added.

Sir Michael, who said later that he had told Mr Hussey that he had not intended his comments to be a personal attack, stopped just short of calling for the chairman's resignation, but he made clear

that he thought the government was wrong to have renewed Mr Hussey's contract last year for a further five years.

"I do not believe you should have a ten-year chairmanship, especially if there is no separation of powers [between governors and management]. It puts the chairman in too powerful a position," the director-general said.

Attacking Mr Hussey for putting him in "an absurd position" by naming John Birt as his successor almost two years before the handover, Sir Michael added: "To have a handover of 21 months is a most ludicrous way to operate in my view."

"I think most people would agree with that... If the changeover had happened this autumn, that would have been orderly."

Checkland's revenge, page 6

Lover shot Petra Kelly

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

Petra Kelly, founder of Germany's Green party and once one of Europe's leading counter-cultural figures, was shot dead by her lover who then used his 38-calibre pistol to kill himself, Bonn police said Tuesday.

The decomposed bodies of Kelly and her 69-year-old companion, Gert Bastian, a former general who became a Greens activist, were found in their house Monday night.

Helmut Otto, Bonn's chief detective, did not rule out a suicide pact, and said the shooting could have happened three weeks ago. A spokesman for the prosecutor's office said: "We are certain of one thing, which is that a third person was not responsible for the deaths."

Shadows of despair, page 14
Obituary, page 21

Killings at the full moon

Police are to question Christopher Gore, 27, a brilliant mathematician sent to Broadmoor yesterday for killing his parents with an axe, about the deaths of two other women. All the killings were on nights of the full moon. Page 6

Channel link cost cut £1.5bn

The cost of building the proposed Channel tunnel rail link between Folkestone and London has been cut to £3 billion, £1.5 billion less than originally forecast for the easterly route into King's Cross station via Stratford. Page 8

Underwood back

Rory Underwood, England's most capped rugby union player, has been recalled to the squad against South Africa next month. Page 40

New loan rules ease home trap

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday relaxed the rules on building society lending to ease the plight of homeowners who cannot move because their house is worth less than their mortgage.

Lenders again dropped their mortgage rates yesterday, with the Cheltenham & Gloucester announcing a cut of 0.7 per cent to rates of 9.05 per cent interest for existing borrowers from December 1.

Building societies will be allowed to raise the amount they may lend unsecured from £10,000 to £25,000 per person. If, for example, a borrower has a £100,000 mortgage and a house valued at £75,000, he can now move to another £100,000 house by funding the shortfall between the sale proceeds and the old mortgage with a £25,000 unsecured loan.

Lenders will also be allowed to exchange the security of one property for another against the original loan without the loss of mortgage interest tax relief. Present rules do not allow tax relief to be claimed on the mortgage of a new property until the old one has been redeemed.

Critics immediately pointed out that unsecured loans would be expensive, made at unsecured loan rates which could be double those of mortgage rates. Lenders would consider such loans only for borrowers they thought could afford it.

Mark Boléar, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, described the measures as "helpful but not earth-shattering".

Ring up John and cheer him up!

Mr Major leads a surprisingly solitary life at Downing Street. His temporary flat in Admiralty Arch was small and poky and No 10 itself has been a building site for months.

Mrs Major spends much of her time in Huntingdon with the children, and when her husband first arrived at Downing Street he could find no one to iron his shirts. He would go for days eating little or nothing. Eventually a maid was hired and Wrens brought in from Chequers to prepare him a cooked breakfast every morning. This fry-up is often his only square meal of the day.

He is frequently lonely and is unsure of who his real friends are. He trusts Mr Mellor, Richard Ryder and Lord Archer of Weston super Mare, but few others.

By 9pm Downing Street is virtually deserted. The sense of isolation has become so bad that some of his friends are telephoned at home by the PM's advisers, says a colleague. "For God's sake ring John. Cheer him up," they say. "He is lonely."

One of the most obvious manifestations of Mr Major's unhappiness and isolation is the dramatic weight loss.

Associates say he tries to make light of it — "He is always pulling his trousers out and showing how much he has lost" — but the prime minister's diet is cause for concern.

Continued on page 3, col 2

Heseltine heads off backbench revolt

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE government last night appeared to have headed off defeat at the hands of Tory MPs by signalling that its investigation into pit closures will range far wider than at first thought and throwing a lifeline to the threatened communities.

A series of fresh concessions outlined in public and private statements by Michael Heseltine, John Major, and Lord Wakeham, the Lords' leader and former energy secretary, seemed last night to have isolated all but a hard core of Tory rebels.

In a morning encounter Mr Heseltine assured the executive of the 1922 committee that there would be a full and open review into the closures and that its findings would be published. He was swiftly rewarded after the 90-minute meeting with a statement from the executive pledging support in tonight's vote.

The prime minister then told the Commons the government would give the "fullest co-operation" to the enquiry shortly to be launched by the Commons trade and industry committee. Trade unions, including the miners, and independent energy experts will be allowed to give evidence both to the government review and the select committee enquiry.

Then, in a marked change of tone from that adopted by Mr Heseltine in his announcement on Monday, Lord Wakeham told the Lords that it would be "wrong to be too pessimistic" about the outcome. He committed Mr Heseltine to looking at each pit and considering whether the case for closure had been made and, considering and discussing with the electricity generators and regional electricity companies whether the

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PM seeks moratorium on Commons dispute over dubious description

MONSIEUR Delors is holding a competition. Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Lindsey E) told MPs about it yesterday. M Delors has offered 200,000 euros to the first person who can propose a succinct and workable definition of "subsidiarity". Had there yet, Sir Peter asked John Major, been a winning entry? The prime minister sidestepped the question. The last thing he needs is another argument about words.

What, for instance, does "moratorium" mean? On Monday in the Commons, Michael Heseltine said it meant a delay over Christ-

mas while he assembled the evidence that would prove he was right all along to close 31 pits.

On Tuesday morning, over coffee, the PM told senior Tories that "moratorium" meant a real reconsideration. On Tuesday afternoon, over the dispatch box, Mr Major told John Smith it meant an enquiry by a select committee, and a vote.

On Tuesday evening in the upper chamber, Lord Wakeham told peers it meant "a thorough and wide-ranging review" in which ministers and others would "look at each pit and ask whether



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

the case for closure has been made". It would be, he added, "wrong to be too pessimistic".

If this is a moratorium, show me a rout. We now realise that in 1066 what King Harold suffered was a moratorium. Four tons of coal, then, to the first person who can propose a workable — and fixed — definition.

And, for our next competition, a

generous prize — a year's season ticket for the Westminster-Canary Wharf section of the projected Jubilee line — to the first person who can work out what the prime minister meant when (to Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson) he set out the government's economic strategy...

"I think he does need to bear in mind that we are by instinct a trading nation and we must bear

that in mind in all the policies which we follow. As I made clear a few moments ago, what the government is seeking to do and will continue to do in the period up to the public expenditure round is looking at the difficulties that are faced at the moment and looking at the right possibilities and the right policies to build on the present economic circumstances the proper level of growth for the British economy and British industry."

An additional prize to this winner: the Neil Kinnock inflatable trophy.

Mr Major entered the competition with a definition of "recent". He told Mr Smith that Labour had shut down swaths of the mining industry "in recent years". He also provided a cheery new phrase — "the increasing competitiveness of the exchange rate" — for what sportsmen would call the collapse of the currency.

It's being so cheerful that keeps him going, Mr Major had a tolerably good afternoon yesterday. We commentators have passed the summer remarking wisely that what the government dreads is the return of Parliament.

but what Mr Major suffered yesterday at the hands of a rather under-par Mr Smith, was less dreadful than what *The Daily Telegraph* has been inflicting daily. Taking refuge on the front bench, Mr Major punched the airwaves with vigour at PM's questions, and afterwards during a statement which had something to do with Europe — long dropped out of our consciousness.

To get a crisis into proportion, there's nothing like a bigger crisis. Only a new threat to the hickies in Antarctica, or to the British sausage, can save Mr Heseltine now.

Day of arm-twisting leaves whips confident of success

Only about half a dozen of the Tory MPs who opposed the pit closures look likely to vote against the government

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REBELS

AFTER a frantic day of briefings and arm-twisting, Tory whips were last night confident that enough Tory rebels would change their minds to avoid a government defeat this afternoon.

Most of the 20 or so rebels who have spoken out against the pit closures trooped in one by one to see Michael Heseltine yesterday in an operation to persuade them to rally behind the government.

Although five or six Tories were still threatening to vote with the Opposition, several MPs said that they had been reassured by the concessions over the past 48 hours and

were now prepared to back the government.

Elizabeth Peacock, Richard Shepherd, Nicholas Winterton, Ann Winterton, Winston Churchill and Bill Walker, are, however, still expected to vote against the government. Mr Shepherd said that he would vote for an independent review, which he claimed the government was not undertaking. Mr Winterton also called for a full independent energy review and said that he had refused to see Mr Heseltine because "I do not wish to be persuaded".

William Cash said he would certainly abstain and might vote against the government.

He told Mr Heseltine yesterday that he would back the government if the Trentham colliery — one of the ten pit closures going ahead — were put into the review.

Rebels who have changed their mind include Sir George Gardiner, Spencer Batiste, Richard Alexander, Patrick McCormack, Andrew Mitchell, John Watts, Tony Madow, Sir John Hannam and Gary Waller. Tories still said to be wavering and who might abstain include David Nicholson, James Pawsey, Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson and Sir Rhodes Boyson.

However, even if six MPs vote against the government, a further 20 Tories would need to abstain before its majority is threatened. If the nine Ulster unionists abstain, the vote will be much tighter, with only 11 Tory abstentions needed for a government defeat. However, Tory whips pointed out that the unionists are not the most reliable MPs at turning out to vote.

The whips dismissed the need for "stretchers" to bring in bedridden Conservatives and were confident that Sir Donald Thompson, who has had an operation and missed yesterday's Carlton Club lunch, would turn up. However, Richard Ryder, the chief whip, sent a fax to Kenya to try to track down Andrew Hunter, MP for Basingstoke, to persuade him to return to vote. Mr Hunter and his wife are on a holiday that they won in a competition four months ago.

Labour whips were said to be more concerned about getting the full complement of opposition MPs, one or two of whom are seriously ill.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

Enquiry by committee

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE fate of Britain's coalfields will be investigated by the Commons trade and industry committee whatever the result of tonight's vote on the closures.

The 11-strong committee will question Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, only hours before the Commons debate, about his case for seeking to close 31 pits. But the MPs will not decide the terms of reference for their enquiry until after the vote in the hope that the Commons will sanction an official review by the committee.

A key reason for the government's reluctance to leave the committee to review the closure programme is that, thanks largely to an oversight by Conservative whips after

the general election, Labour now holds the chairmanship.

The whips had privately marked down the veteran MP Stan Orme as an acceptable Labour chairman. Instead the committee of six Tories and five Labour voted for Richard Caborn, a former Labour trade spokesman. In addition, the whips insisted that the energy committee should be killed off in parallel with the energy department.

Whatever the terms of reference, the "bible" of the committee's enquiry will be the last batch of evidence collected by the energy committee, published in February. The three volumes back up the committee's previous complaints that electricity privatisation left a rigged market, favouring nuclear power.



Electric train set: British Rail's "merry-go-round" service delivering fuel from pits in the Yorkshire coalfield yesterday to Ferrybridge power station. Ferrybridge is one of three coal-fired generating stations supplied by the service, which runs almost continuously

Tories scent fear in the heartlands

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY Conservative MPs, left reeling from the stormiest party conference most can recall, the pit closures and the media criticism of John Major, have returned to Westminster with alarming tales of growing disillusionment among their constituents and are demanding a clear answer to the oft-repeated question: "What is happening?"

Certain themes are universal, such as calls for lower interest rates and the objections of some to the prime minister's "obsession" with the Maastricht treaty. But one of the most noticeable changes between this week and last July, when the Commons rose for the summer recess, is the average backbench MP's attitude to unemployment.

Before there was a certain complacency that high unem-

ployment did not lose the Tories the 1983 general election. Now they recognise that it is "our people" who are out of work. They brought back talk of fear and despair in their constituencies.

Few believe, even privately, that Mr Major's position is vulnerable, but there is also a common feeling that he is not being kept in touch with the views of his backbench MPs and the man on the Clapham omnibus. Peter Bottomley, a former minister and the MP for Eitham, said: "We have got some big issues that need to be handled with imagination. With 2.5 million people in this country needing worthwhile jobs, we need the equivalent of the Manpower Services Commission to give these people a purpose in life and to help the labour market."

MPs plot to lure waverers

LABOUR backbenchers plotted with potential Tory rebels last week to ensure that the Opposition motion today would get the maximum support from wavering Tory MPs (Jill Sherman writes).

Robin Cook, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said yesterday that the motion had been phrased to provide a "broad bridge" that would allow Conservative MPs to cross into the opposition lobby.

Mr Cook spent most of last Thursday and Friday finalising the motion with John Smith, the Labour leader, but at the same time backbenchers were bouncing phrases off Tory dissenters who were anxious to ensure that the wording was not too critical of the government. Words such as "moratorium" got more marks than the word "halt", although in the end the motion adopted neither.

Richard Caborn, the Labour chairman of the trade and

industry committee, was a key player in drawing up the motion. He suggested to Mr Cook last Thursday that the review should be conducted by his committee, arguing that it would appeal to MPs as it was both a parliamentary body and covered the broad brush of energy policy.

During the weekend, party officials kept their eye on the growing Tory rebellion, having disclosed the substance of the motion on Friday. As more Tories backed a rethink of the closure programme with a review attached, Mr Cook and Mr Smith were confident that they had chosen the right words.

The final motion published yesterday is: "That this House regrets the failure of the president of the board of trade in his statement on Monday 19th October to provide for a review of the programme of

pit closures, and demands that no pit be closed until after the select committee on trade and industry concludes a review of the costs and benefits of closing the pits and the comparative costs and benefits to the nation of retaining them in production."

Last night, it appeared that the government had conceded to at least some of these elements. Mr Cook said: "The government's position has been turned upside down. The pressure of public opinion and the deadline of the vote on our motion has pushed the government into a humiliating retreat."

Labour has done its best over the past few days to stop Tory rallying round their leader by avoiding a clash with the government over pit closures. At question time yesterday, John Smith tried not to provoke backbenchers by concentrating his attacks on the nature of the review of pit closures.

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Avalanche rolls over Major with his ear to the ground

The government has moved from intransigence to consultation. It is starting to listen to the public's concerns. But it still does not have a coherent economic strategy

THE government is starting to show that it is listening. After a month when it has been ineffectively on the defensive, Downing Street changed its language and presentation yesterday, to respond to the public's worries.

John Major showed in the Commons that recent press attempts to write him off were premature. He was in fighting mood and even managed to rouse his own MPs to the occasional cheer, unlike his weak performance in the emergency economic debate nearly four weeks ago. After shifting yesterday to accepting what amounts to a review of pit closures, the government looks sure of gaining a majority at the end of tonight's Commons debate.

On the pits row, the emphasis is now all on consultations with affected parties, looking at the broader implications of closures, and taking account of the views of the trade and industry select committee. After the intransigence of the weekend, we now have the listening government.

More significant, however, are the signs of a shift, at least of emphasis, if not yet definitely of substance, on economic policy. During prime minister's questions yesterday, Mr Major talked about the need to secure growth. The prime minister

wants the autumn statement to be all about recovery. This is defined as sustainable recovery, meaning a growth policy geared to the continuing containment and reduction of inflation.

Any relaxation is likely to be cautious. The government is poised between putting a priority on recovery and not being accused of a dash for growth and slashing interest rates. That has a

number of implications: further cuts in interest rates provided they do not destabilise the sterling exchange rate and risk higher inflation (otherwise interest rates will be raised) and measures to encourage industrial investment.

But any action will be constrained by the need to hold down public borrowing and to keep spending below the existing limit of £244.5 billion for next year. The main change will be in the distribution of spending. The prime minister has been making it known that the statement will be very tough indeed on public sector costs. A limit of 0 to 2 per cent on rises in public sector wage bills is likely. That is intended to make capital programmes a priority. In

addition, as Mr Major hinted in his Brighton party conference speech, the Treasury is looking at ways of easing restrictions which have until now prevented the private sector from investing more in infrastructure projects. That is a way of allowing big capital projects to go ahead while avoiding the usual Treasury definitions of public spending.

This is not yet a coherent economic strategy but some of the building blocks are being put in place — and more will be in Norman Lamont's Mansion House speech next week and in the autumn statement early next month. There are still questions about the government's determination to hold down inflation and to prevent too sharp a fall in the exchange rate.

Mr Major personally is relaxed and resilient in face of the recent avalanche of criticism against the government. He is not behaving like a prime minister on the way out. But on one subject he is inflexible. He has no intention of shifting his existing European policy. He is determined to ensure that Britain retains its influence and decisions are not taken without a British voice. Tory MPs have been warned. They face a long winter until the Maastricht treaty is ratified.

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Gas contracts may block move to save coal-fired power

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Outside experts suggest that the switch to gas-fired power stations will be costly, but it may now be unavoidable

ANY attempt to stop economic coal mines being shut out of the electricity market by costlier gas-fired power is likely to face formidable difficulties and entail heavy compensation being paid to undo 15-year power supply contracts. That cost would probably fall on regional electricity companies, which are likely to resist any such moves strongly.

Any change would require swift action by Professor Stephen Littlechild, head of Oftec, the electricity regulator. He has previously encouraged the entry of new generators using gas and has not vetoed contracts in advance. The power contracts are understood not to have clauses allowing for objections by the regulator.

Calculations by independent experts suggest that many gas-fired electricity projects will be supplying power at prices higher than those to be offered by the big generating companies for power supplied from coal at the new lower prices conceded by British Coal.

Analyses of three representative independent plants by

Gerard McCloskey of International Coal Report and by Professor N.J.D. Lucas of Imperial College for the Campaign for Fair Electricity Regulation agree that the plants will supply electricity at between 2.9p and 3.3p per kilowatt hour. Some recent projects would cost more than this but many of the earlier or larger gas projects can supply at about 2.5p per kWh.

A typical power station using British coal and fitted with costly flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) plant would supply at between 2.7p and 2.8p per kWh. More coal-fired plants would need FGD to reduce the risk of acid rain if large amounts of gas-fired power were withdrawn.

Electricity industry sources suggest that more than half the 5,000 megawatts of gas-fired power already directly contracted by regional electricity companies is uneconomic at the new coal price. This alone will displace nearly seven million tons of coal. About

1,500 megawatts of this capacity, equivalent to nearly four million tons of coal, may be more expensive than electricity supplied from coal at the higher prices prevailing under the old coal contracts, which will expire next spring.

Firm electricity supply contracts with regional electricity companies are in place for all the new gas-fired plants being built by new competitors, and these are usually backed by firm gas supply contracts with British Gas or oil companies. If more were to be made for more coal, these firm contracts would have to be revoked.

Professor Littlechild is understood to have no direct power to veto contracts, but regional electricity companies are obliged by their licences to purchase power economically. Offer engaged consultants last month to report on contracts in January. They will, however, vet total supply costs rather than individual contracts.

The reports were intended only to guide him in fixing price limits that are to operate from 1994. These limits could be used to penalise companies buying expensive power, especially from power stations in which they have a financial interest, but this would not improve the market for coal.

If companies were found to have breached their licences, they could also be fined directly by the regulator. However, fines would have to be damagingly large to make it worthwhile for them to revoke contracts.

The total cost of projects for even 1,500 kilowatts of gas-fired power could be as high as £800 million, though some projects are at an early stage with only a small proportion of their cost spent. There could also be penalties for revoking gas supply contracts.

Professor Littlechild is unlikely to be keen to undo contracts with new competitors. This would reinforce the dominance of National Power and PowerGen, which he has tried to reduce. Their projects to supply about 5,000 megawatts of gas-fired power are not subject to individual contracts with regional electricity companies but are cost-effective because gas was contracted at lower prices.

Mr Littlechild, the president of the board of trade, yesterday stepped up pressure on electricity companies to sign new contracts with British Coal. The contracts have been bogged down for months as National Power and PowerGen resist pressure to buy more coal than they need for generation.



Littlechild: understood not to have direct veto

Pressure grows for independent review

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

PRESSURE is mounting for the government to take the opportunity of its moratorium on pit closures to undertake an independent review of British energy policy and impose firmer regulatory control over the buying policies of regional electricity supply companies.

In spite of protestations by Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, that such a review would take too long, the country's biggest energy users say it is needed. They are concerned about the way new gas-fired power stations are squeezing out cheaper coal-fired plants.

They welcomed this week's decision from Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of the electricity regulator Oftec, to speed up his investigations into supply companies' power stations with gas-fired power stations as part of his overall review of price controls.

Peter Rost, of the Major Energy Users Council, said: "We want a proper, independent study which looks at the future of our energy needs and supplies and looks also at the faults in the privatisation of electricity, which has restricted a competitive market. We are concerned that we are moving into a situation, through the contraction of the coal industry, that will lead to higher electricity prices."

Tony Mitchell-Harris, energy manager at English China Clays, said: "We want to see a thorough review of the cost of gas power generation. We believe that it will show that coal is the cheaper alternative. We would also like to see a sensible, coherent energy policy from the government covering all energy users for the UK." Roger Lyons, who chairs

the TUC's energy committee and acts as co-ordinator for Oftec, the Coalition for Fair Electricity Regulation, wants Professor Littlechild to examine the contracts between electricity supply companies and independent gas-fired power generation companies.

He said the contracts were the result of anti-competitive behaviour by the supply companies because they would result in higher prices. Oftec represents trade unions, coal-field communities and large energy users.

Mr Lyons wants to see "a proper, independent review of each pit". He also called on the government "to facilitate British Coal's ability to export". He said British coal would be competitively priced if the government would provide cheaper rail transport from the pits to the ports.

The ten pits cleared for closure by Mr Heseltine made an operating profit of £3.3 million last year, the TUC said yesterday (Ross Tienan writes). Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, called on Mr Heseltine to provide more information about the basis on which the pits had been condemned.

British Coal figures, quoted by Mr Heseltine, suggest the ten pits had lost £31 million this year. Mr Willis said the TUC had been sent information that showed six were in profit last year, making a total of £16.9 million. Four pits lost money, leaving a £3.3 million surplus overall. British Coal last night stood by its assertion that the ten pits had lost £31 million so far this year.

Bank's dual advice role

Continued from page 1
the financial viability or economic desirability of burning gas in power stations, nor was it asked to express an opinion about the relative merits of coal and gas generation.

"In doing the report, we simply took the facts as they were at the time," Mr Palmer said. "We looked at the amount of nuclear electricity that had to be bought under government contracts and at the amount of gas plant already committed. We then made various assumptions about coal imports and asked the government to give us their figures about the probable amounts of extra gas-fired capacity that would be licensed in the next five years. It was only by taking for granted the government's views on the use of gas that Rothschild forecast a sharp fall in demand for British coal."

Arm-twisting, page 2
Simon Jenkins, page 18
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Comment, page 27

Heseltine heads off revolt

Continued from page 1
market prospects for coal had been "correctly assessed"; examining again the switch to gas-fired power stations and looking again into the level of coal imports to see if they were "appropriate". Lord Wakeham said there would be "little point in having a pause and moratorium on the proposed pit closures if it was merely a device for getting the government off the hook".

Lord Wakeham's statement, made in a Lords debate on the coal industry after morning talks with Mr Heseltine and Mr Major, was clearly designed to win over as many of the remaining rebels as possible. Many Tory MPs had voiced concern that Mr Heseltine seemed to believe that the consultations he promised on Monday — he did not even use the word "review" — would not result in the 31 threatened pits having anything more than a temporary reprieve.

But Lord Wakeham promised that the review would be "thorough and wide-ranging". It would result in a

"significantly smaller coal industry" than at present, but it would still be a "substantial" industry.

The new note of conciliation was confirmed last night when Mr Heseltine addressed 150 Tory MPs at a private meeting of the backbench trade and industry committee. He promised that he would "listen to every piece of evidence and every point of view" when re-examining the case for pit closures. Before a further Commons debate after his review, he would also consult backbenchers about his findings, he told them.

Although many MPs criticised Mr Heseltine's handling of the original announcement of pit closures, one senior source said he had the president of the board of trade satisfied most of them that the review was not merely a delaying tactic.

In his first Commons question time clash with John Smith, the Labour leader, Mr Major underlined the extent of the review when he said: "Mr Heseltine's statement will be set in the context of the



Black outlook: David Kingerley, a miner all his working life, contemplates an uncertain future after finishing a shift at Cotgrave colliery, Nottinghamshire, yesterday afternoon. The pit is one of ten facing closure even after the government's retreat on Monday and 520 jobs

will go, including Mr Kingerley's. Nottinghamshire miners, traditionally among the most productive and moderate in the industry, will bury their differences with more militant elements of the NUM today when they join a mass lobby of Parliament to coincide with a

debate on pit closures. Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, has said that the review of proposals to close down a total of 31 mines would amount to little more than a stay of execution unless plans were laid to overhaul the market for power station fuels.

Lynd vows to return his OBE

BY BILL FROST

ROY Lynd, who announced yesterday that he is to stand down as president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, has also decided to send back his OBE in protest at the pit closure plans. Unaccustomed as it is to dealing with spurned honours, Buckingham Palace has promised to keep the medal on one side in case he wants it back one day.

Mr Lynd said that he would not be standing for re-election next month, as he felt that his position had become untenable.

His decision not to hold the OBE may not be so simple. James McGurk, insignia clerk at the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, said yesterday: "He is still an OBE, whether he likes it or not. The Cabinet Office could strike him out but Mr Lynd cannot strip himself of the honour."

Mr Lynd's decoration would be kept for a year, then be cleaned, polished and rebored, ready for a new recipient, Mr McGurk said.

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BECAUSE THE GAME HAS CHANGED.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Major strain, page 17
Simon Jenkins, page 18
Pound recovers, page 23

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50% off names such as Crabtree & Evelyn, Bronnley, Scarborough, Alexander Hair Accessories or Woods of Windsor.
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Dress & Occasionwear Room:
Selection of Frank Usher evening gowns reduced by 50%.
Separates I:
50% off selected items from Laurel.
Separates II:
A selection of Oui Set reduced by 25% eg.
Blouse.....£60.....£45
Trousers.....£70.....£50
Skirt.....£70.....£50
Selected Betty Barclay items reduced by 25%.
Designer Separates II:
Selected Georges Rech items reduced by 75%.
Body Beach & Swimwear:
La Perla reduced by 30%.
Updated Classics:
A selection of suits reduced eg.
Mansfield suit.....£325.....£250
Coat Room:
College coat.....£259.....£189
Selected blazers reduced by 25%.
1/3rd off selected items eg.
Pierrette B coat.....£379.....£249
Plus Collections:
Selected items reduced by 25%.
Lingerie:
Selected items from La Perla, Charnos or Warners reduced by up to 50%.
Bridal Room:
A selection of wedding dresses reduced by up to 50%.
British Classics Room:
A selection of items reduced eg. Breckenridge 40%.
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Silverware:
Pewter tea sets reduced by 75%.....£299.....£69

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Carrs of Sheffield sterling silver photo frames reduced by 50% eg.	£29	£14
	£45	£22
	£65	£32
	£95	£47
Harrods tableware reduced by 60% eg.		
Silver-plated napkin ring	£14	£5
Canteens of silver-plated cutlery eg.		
44 piece	£995	£495
84 piece	£1,625	£795
124 piece	£2,325	£1,150
Cooks Shop: Selected Le Crueset items reduced by 20%. 13" stir-fry pan	£11.95	£6.95
Ellegibi kitchen utensils at half price.		
International Crystal: Atlantis stem and barware in a variety of patterns reduced by 60% eg.		
'Cathay' wine glass	£24.95	£9.95
British Crystal: Stuart, Tyrone, Galway and Dartington reduced by 10%.		
International Porcelain: 'Dal Pra' giftware reduced by 30%. A selection of Richard Ginori porcelain at reduced prices.		
Harrods own 'Apsley' dinnerware at 40% off.		
Wardrobe Shop: Pack of 5 wooden coat hangers	£17.50	£8.75
Decorative storage boxes at 50% off.		
Towels: Harrods 'Building' beach towel	£29.90	£14.95
TV & Audio: Toshiba video recorder V211	£229	£199
JVC 28" remote control tv N28F1	£699	£599
Akai video recorder VSF 410	£349	£299
Sanyo 21" remote control TV CBP 2162	£399	£299
Sanyo video recorder VHR 235	£289	£229
Fashion Fabrics: Selected fashion fabrics reduced by up to 75%.		
FURNITURE, THIRD FLOOR Pianos: Selected pianos and electronic keyboards at reduced prices eg. Welmar 122 upright piano	£5,245	£4,245
Roland HP900L digital piano	£1,395	£1,100
Furnishing Fabric: Set of 4 plain velvet cushions	£44	£36
Tapestry cushion	£29.95	£15
Beds: Vi Spring 'Herald Supreme' 6'x6'6"	£1,875	£1,375
Reylon 'Balmoral', 6'x6'6"	£2,125	£1,550

	Harrods Usual Price	REDUCED PRICE
Modern Upholstery: Stevens upholstery reduced by 20% eg.		
'Tuscany' 3 seater sofa	£1,375	£995
Michael Tyler upholstery reduced by 20% eg.		
'Borago' 3 seater sofa	£1,533	£1,225
Traditional Cabinets: Chartwell reduced by 40% eg.		
Small open bookcase in mahogany	£245	£145
A selection of G.T. Rackstraw cabinets reduced by 30% eg.		
Oval draw top dining table in yew	£1,805	£1,260
Traditional Upholstery: Parker & Farr reduced by 20% eg.		
'Wentworth' 2 seater sofa	£2,100	£1,785
Lighting: Indian brass bases at 50% off eg.	£39	£19
	£50	£25
Carpets: Super Jaldar 6'x4' rug	£470	£195
Super Jaldar 5'x3' rug	£710	£295
FOURTH FLOOR Baby Shop: Ozona Sweatshirt	£18.75	£11.50
Ozona hooded T-shirt	£16.75	£10
Toys: Easywriter	£13.95	£6.95
Sounds of power fire engine	£8.95	£4.45
SPORTS & LEISURE, FIFTH FLOOR Golf: Harrods own label golf shirt	£36	£18
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Major rejects Smith's call for pit enquiry

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THERE will be a genuine review of the future of the coalmining industry, the prime minister made clear yesterday. After widespread consultation, the results would be put before Parliament before MPs debated the matter again, he said.

John Major rejected Labour demands to set up a formal enquiry, however, saying that the government expected the all-party trade and industry select committee to conduct an investigation. The government stood ready to co-operate with such an investigation, he said.

John Smith, making his debut as party leader at prime minister's question time, said that whatever else Michael Heseltine did on Monday, the president of the board of trade did not announce a review of the pit closure programme. "Will the prime minister now agree to establish a genuine and independent review before any pit is closed for ever?" Mr Smith asked.

Speaking clearly and precisely "so there is no dispute or misunderstanding", Mr Major replied: "The ten pits Mr Heseltine specified, in our judgment have no sustainable economic future and they will go through the statutory review procedure."

"But during the moratorium on the other pits, the trade and industry select committee, I have no doubt, will wish to

hold their own enquiry and the government will give that its fullest co-operation. During the moratorium the president of the board of trade will take views and evidence to consider alongside the information already available to him on all matters.

"In due course he will publish that in time for consideration by this House, before any further debate in this House, and his statement will be set in the context of the government's energy policy and will set out the consequences of that policy for British Coal, the implications for individual pits and the prospects for the industry."

"It is after that debate that future decisions will be taken." Mr Smith was not satisfied. "I remind the prime minister of the question I asked," he said. "I asked whether he would establish a genuine and independent review?"

Mr Major replied that when the consultation and examination had been completed it would be made public and laid before the House of Commons. There would be every opportunity for every view to be taken into account before matters proceeded.

Mr Smith came back a third time. "Is it not now clear," he said, "that the only satisfactory alternative to the constantly shifting statements from the prime minister and president of the board of trade and to the unseemly Dutch auction going on among Tory backbenchers, is for this House tomorrow night to vote to refer the whole matter to our own select committee and for that to be the response of MPs in all parts of the House?"

Mr Major suggested that the Opposition leader was not listening. It seemed to the select committee would wish to consider this matter and the government would provide whatever evidence was necessary. He added angrily that Mr Smith should recall that vast numbers of pits closed and miners were put out of work under Labour governments "in recent years".

If Mr Major was hoping for a respite when Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, the Tory MP for New Forest, was called next, he was not to get it. "The concern expressed about the closure programme is very much bound up with the wider concern about the direction of our economic policy post-ERM," he said to cheers.

"With the lower value of sterling, it is essential we have a policy of import substitution and buy British, not building gas-fired power stations when we have 50 per cent too much generating capacity. If he put these facts into a review he would find the enthusiastic support of people like me who are deeply concerned with what is being proposed."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the proposition that Tory backbenchers were now being asked to accept was that the government, having been found out seeking to close down the coal industry quickly, was now asking to be allowed to close it slowly by rigging a review.

Mr Major retorted that that was not accurate nor a reflection of the government's policy. Even at the existing prices for coal, the market was contracting and coal stocks were growing daily, he said.

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No respite: Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson widens the debate to include the ERM

Maastricht delay ruled out

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major yesterday sent out a clear message that he has no intention of bowing to back-bench pressure and delaying legislation on the Maastricht treaty. He brushed aside MPs' pleas to postpone discussion of the treaty until after December's European Council summit meeting in Edinburgh.

Despite increasing pressure from Tory Euro-sceptics to put off the debate, Mr Major was clearly buoyed up yesterday by what he called a "change of attitude" among EC leaders, particularly towards the vexed issue of subsidiarity.

Reporting to the Commons on last week's Birmingham summit of the European council, he confidently forecast that Danish opposition to Maastricht would be overcome. There was no need to await a second referendum in Denmark before Britain pressed on with its own ratification.

Although he would not set a firm timetable, Mr Major is

known to remain intent on bringing the Maastricht bill before Parliament before Christmas. He fended off calls to delay the bill until next year. "The way is open for us, at a time convenient to this House, to reconsider the treaty, to which, on behalf of this country and with the consent of this House, I gave my name. In due course, after we have had the paving debate I promised, we shall reintroduce the

towards subsidiarity and claimed credit for leading the shift towards greater national independence. He fiercely denied the suggestion that Germany had introduced more wide-ranging proposals on subsidiarity.

"With less than three months to go to the completion of the single market, which could raise Community output by over 4 per cent, it was vital to re-establish confidence in the interests of stability, recovery, growth and jobs in all our countries. The Birmingham European council did that."

John Smith, the Labour leader, asked Mr Major: "Can you tell us if during the presidency your government has produced one single initiative which tackles rising unemployment, falling investment and low growth?" Mr Smith added that the summit was "typical of the British presidency as a whole: inconclusive and largely irrelevant".

Mr Major concentrated heavily on the fact that all council members "agreed to take decisions at Edinburgh to make subsidiarity an integral part of EC decision-making. This change of attitude is as important as the procedures and criteria to be introduced." He reported a "sea change" in European countries' attitude

Ashdown accuses PM of inaction

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major reacted fiercely to a charge from Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, that his lack of leadership and action would cause deaths in the former Yugoslavia.

In an uncharacteristic outburst, the prime minister was clearly wounded by the accusation that he had not asserted his authority in providing relief to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After Mr Major had announced new aid worth £15 million to the former Yugoslavia, Mr Ashdown attacked delays in sending further relief. He said that the "story of lack of leadership is one that will lead to misery and torture

over the next few months". If Mr Major had made better use of his powers as president of the European council, aid would be travelling during summer months, rather than during winter, when some supplies would not reach their destination.

Mr Major responded angrily: "I have never heard a more arrogant assertion of inaccuracies." He told Mr Ashdown to "stop running down" the work of British doctors, pilots and relief workers and said that he "would be better employed bearing in mind the work that we have done, the leadership we have shown, rather than talking down the work of this country on every occasion".

Mr Ashdown forecast the misery in Sarajevo "which we will see as we come up to Christmas, writhing in its agony on our television screens". The prime minister earlier announced that the £15 million of aid would provide 22 more trucks, ten Land-Rovers, shelter, medical supplies and personnel. Britain had also invited the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to hold a meeting of experts to ensure that aid reached its destination as quickly as possible.



Sterling deal 'not available'

There had been no alternative realignment package available for sterling before "Black Wednesday", John Major insisted at Commons question time yesterday. Asked if there had been a proposal on the table, either formal or informal, the prime minister replied that there was no package, "formal or informal".

Student debt

More than 5,000 students have failed to repay at least two instalments of their student loans, Nigel Forster, the education minister, said. The figure represented 9 per cent of the loans given to students but Mr Forster said that the loan scheme had not deterred students from entering higher education.

Parking bill

A backbencher's bill to curb the activities of "cow-boy clammers" who immobilise cars parked on private land was given a first reading. John Speller (Warley West, Lab) said there was evidence of abuse by private wheel-clampers. The main motivation was to extort money from the motorist.

Crime cost

Crime-fighting in England and Wales in 1990-1 cost an estimated £7.5 billion, Michael Jack, Home Office minister, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

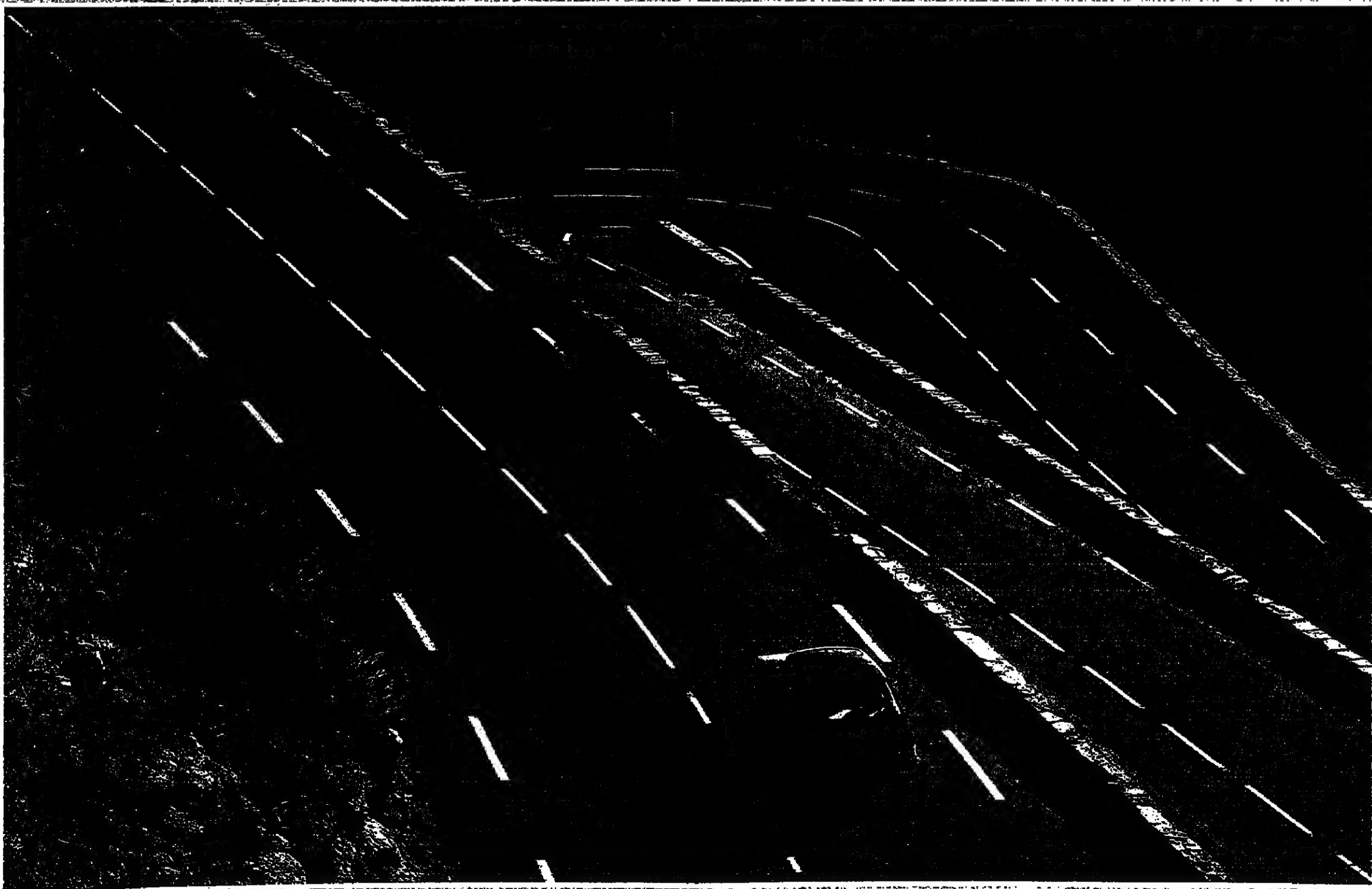
Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debate on the coal industry. Lords (2.30): Debates on the water industry and on national security.



Archer takes seat in Lords

Jeffrey Archer, left, the best-selling novelist and former Conservative party deputy chairman, was introduced in the House of Lords as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. He was sponsored by the Conservative peers Lord Renton, a former Home Office minister, and Lord Denham, a former government chief whip in the upper House.

Diary, page 18



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kinno's hope of EC job dashed

John Major last night dashed Neil Kinno's hopes of succeeding Bruce Millan as one of Britain's European Community commissioners (Nicholas Wood writes). Bowing to pressure from Conservative Euro-sceptics, the prime minister announced that Mr Millan will stay in his post for the next two years.

The move caused dismay in Labour leadership circles because it is widely believed that Mr Major informally offered Mr Kinno the job after the election. Mr Millan was prepared to stand down for the former Labour leader. Mr Major is said to have made clear to John Smith, soon after he became Labour leader, that the £115,200-a-year post was Mr Kinno's for the asking. Although Mr Major won praise for apparent magnanimity in the wake of his election victory, the prospect triggered a backlash from the centre-right of the Conservative party.

Mr Smith's office last night said he had fought hard on Mr Kinno's behalf. Downing Street denied Mr Kinno had been offered an EC post or informal undertakings.

Sir Leon Brittan will stay on for another two years in Brussels as Britain's other commissioner.

Magnus Pyke dies

Dr Magnus Pyke, the scientist who became well known for the dramatic way he expressed himself on television, has died. He was 53. Dr Pyke's family confirmed yesterday that the TV boffin had died peacefully on Monday in a nursing home in Putney, southwest London. Dr Pyke found national fame in the 1970s as the presenter of the science programme *Don't Ask Me*. A widower, he leaves two children, Bessie and John, and three grandchildren.

Obituary, page 21

£40m lost on training

The employment department has been censured by Sir John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, for making incorrect or dubious payments estimated at £39.6 million in relation to government training schemes. Almost half the money was paid against ill-substantiated claims by Training and Enterprise Councils, which oversee schemes on behalf of the government. A further £11.3 million was reckoned to have been wrongly paid to the councils, and £9.7 million to trainees who had been absent or completed programmes.

Family asks for calm

The grandfather of a seven-year-old found dead near her home in Sunderland 12 days ago, allegedly murdered by a neighbour, has appealed for calm after a mob attacked the homes of the accused man's friends and relatives. There were violent scenes in court on Monday as Peter Heron, 26, appeared before magistrates. That night a crowd of around 300 people attacked four homes, shouting abuse and smashing windows. Dick Prest, the grandfather of Nikki Allen, said: "It has got completely out of hand."

Heavy rain hits South

Heavy rain brought treacherous conditions to much of southern and eastern England yesterday. An estimated two inches of rain fell in some parts over Monday night. A driver died when his car overturned in heavy rain on the B2028 near Haywards Heath, West Sussex. He was Ray Williams, 47, of Hassocks. Flooding closed roads including the southbound A23 at Warringlid. Violent storms destroyed the roofs of two bungalows and a house in Essex.

Forecast, page 22

Police to question graduate about two other killings

Son who slaughtered parents with axe is sent to Broadmoor

BY TIM JONES

A BRILLIANT mathematics graduate who was sent to Broadmoor yesterday for killing parents in a frenzied axe attack is to be questioned by police about the deaths of two other women.

Christopher Gore, 27, who had harboured a deranged hatred for his parents for years, was ordered to be detained in Broadmoor indefinitely after he had denied two charges of murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Bristol Crown Court was told that Gore had killed his father, John, 57, and his mother Ruth, 55, at their cottage in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, during an attack of "terrifying ferocity" on a night of a full moon.

After the trial, police confirmed that they intended to question Gore in Broadmoor about two other killings which also took place on nights with a full moon but which they have so far been unable to solve.

The women who died were Melanie Road, 17, a bright A-level student who was repeatedly stabbed and raped in June 1984 and Carmel Gamble, 44, who was battered to death near Stroud, Gloucestershire, in November 1989.

In court yesterday, Neil Butterfield QC, for the prosecution, said that by the time of the attack on his parents, which occurred in September 1991, Gore had developed "an irrational and consuming hatred" for the quiet couple. "He was and remains a highly dangerous young man. He had shown no emotion or remorse."

"This is a tragic case in which a young man of brilliant academic potential developed a personality disorder which led him to kill his parents." His father, was a scientist at the Berkeley nuclear power station, Gloucestershire, and his mother had a job in the catering trade. The court was told that in 1987, after being

diagnosed as schizoid, he attempted suicide and was admitted to a psychiatric clinic.

Gore, who had been acclaimed as best mathematician of his year when he received a first class honours degree from Bath University, became increasingly alarming in his behaviour. He took up a hippy lifestyle, living rough and occasionally accepting



Killed: John Gore and Ruth Gore

money from the parents he planned to kill. "The defendant articulated to a number of people his pathological hatred of his parents, particularly his father. His hatred grew to such an extent that he entertained and expressed thoughts of killing them," Mr Butterfield said.

Gore had put his thoughts into effect last September. "He returned to his parents' home in Tetbury from Bath and in the course of Saturday night

translated into action the murderous thoughts he had for so long entertained. No specific event precipitated the attack. He simply decided the time had come."

The court was told that Gore armed himself with a heavy felling axe and went first to his father's room and rained blows on his head and face, smashing his skull. Next, he killed his mother who had emerged from her room to confront him. He stabbed them repeatedly with a knife, inflicting many wounds after they had died.

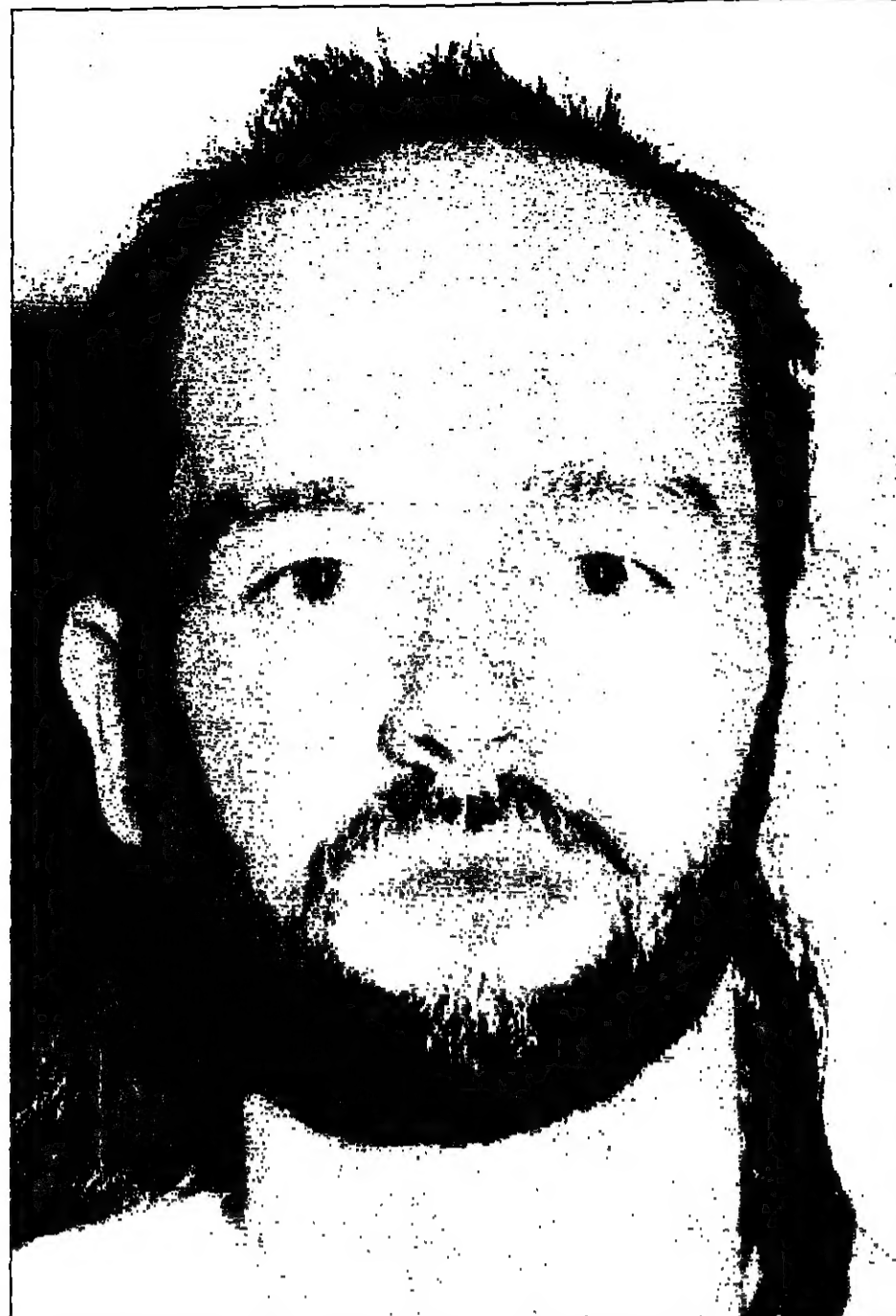
After cleaning blood from some surfaces, Gore calmly watched a video for a while. He then switched on an electric fire in the lounge, covered it with his shirt and trousers, poured paraffin and while spirit over them and hoped that the evidence would be burnt.

When he left the cottage he took with him bottles of wine and champagne and two of his wind-up toys, a fairground monkey and a ladybird, which he played with on the train while travelling back to Bath.

On the Monday, he walked into Bath police station and said: "I am Christopher Gore. I believe you want me for two deaths and a fire." He was interviewed for nine days before finally confessing. Mr Butterfield said: "He appears to have enjoyed the interviewing process and pitting his wits against the officers."

Christopher Llewellyn-Jones QC, for the defence, said that the circumstances of the killings were horrific. Gore had suffered from a schizoid personality that resulted in a psychopathic disorder. The diagnosis had been made long before the killings and his condition had existed probably since childhood.

Doctor David Tidmarsh, a consultant psychiatrist at Broadmoor, said that Gore should be detained at the hospital for many years. "He has formed pathological hatreds to other people, mainly women."



Ruthless genius: Christopher Gore taunted police about the killing of his parents

Maths ace bragged to detectives

CHRISTOPHER Gore had a brain that put him among the top 10 per cent of mathematicians in Britain, allied to a cold, obsessive logic and an admiration for Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper. Detectives considered him to be the most ruthless and intelligent man they had confronted (Tim Jones writes).

In 14 interviews, he refused to admit his crime and at one stage taunted police, saying: "This is like a game of chess."

You might have me in check but it is not checkmate yet." His game continued when, according to police, he admitted that he had committed two other serious crimes but refused to say what they were. He said: "You will never get me for them."

As a pupil at St Ambrose College, a boys' Roman Catholic school in "Hale", near Manchester, Gore had written poetry raging against what he considered to have been a

harsh and disciplined upbringing. He claimed to police that he had been starved of love and felt that his parents expected too much of him. The two other killings about which police which to question Gore are of Melanie Road in June 1984, and Carmel Gamble in November 1989. When detectives searched Gore's parents' cottage, they discovered newspaper cuttings about Gamble's death on top of the television.

New GCSE code will impose national marking standards

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday drew back from further conclusions on the technical difficulties in ensuring consistency of examining.

The council told Mr Patten: "Because GCSE was introduced partly to provide greater motivation for students, we would have expected an improvement in examination results... We are nevertheless concerned that the sharp increase in the number of school-leavers with five or more GCSE A to C grades in the last two years raises queries about standards."

Mr Patten promised action to guarantee standards when Her Majesty's Inspectorate expressed "limited confidence" in this year's results.

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Checkland exacts his revenge

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Michael Checkland has at last got his revenge. After 15 agonising months spent denying he was a "lame-duck" BBC director-general while being forced to share the corporation's helm with his successor, John Birt, Sir Michael finally erupted yesterday with an attack on the man primarily responsible for the botched succession.

He said that Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, had placed him in "an absurd position" by persuading governors at a secret meeting in July last year to name Mr Birt as the next director-general while at the same time extending Sir Michael's contract for one year.

Growing discontent at an apparent lack of leadership at the very top of the BBC culminated in August at the Edinburgh television festival when Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive, rebuked governors for leaving the corporation with two chief executives — "one a lame duck, the other a Trappist monk" — for a 21-month handover period during which the corporation's future was being decided.

Mr Hussey, seen as Mr Birt's biggest supporter within the corporation, had expected Sir Michael to resign before

Sir Michael Checkland's open attack on the BBC's chairman reflects growing discontent within the corporation

the end of his term next March. But he has fought on tenaciously, repeatedly vowing to stick it out until the end.

Yesterday the normally reticent director-general astonished by articulating his immense frustration with the BBC chairman. Not only was Mr Hussey too old to know that FM means frequency modulation and not "fuzzy monsters", but he had grown far too powerful.

Sir Michael stopped just short of calling for the chairman's resignation, but he made clear that he thought the government should not have renewed Mr Hussey's contract for a further five years last year. It was wrong to lend so much power to one man with a ten-year chairmanship, particularly since there was no separation of powers between the governors and management. The board, he said, must be reformed to reflect a wider spectrum of ages and interests.

Mr Hussey will be 73 by the time he leaves the BBC in 1996, by which time all the

about the corporation's future role in the newly-competitive television marketplace will have been taken. "That is bizarre," Sir Michael said yesterday.

The corporation needed younger leadership to chart its course through the turbulent waters of the next 15 years, not a very elderly group of people on the board or a chairman who was apparently so out-of-touch, he said.

Checkland attack, page 1

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



On Monday morning, Nelson Mandela told Bob Geldof on Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast* that his favourite pop group was Abba, the creators of such hits as "Gimme Gimme Gimme (A Man After Midnight)" and "Super Trouper". If this news had got out five years ago, I doubt whether the luminaries of the rock world would have been quite so vociferous in their support of him.

Politicians are often let down by their musical taste. Mrs Thatcher once declared that her favourite singer was Andy Williams. Lord Archer chose Elton John's mawkish "Candle in the Wind" as a desert island disc. Lynsey de Paul and Cilla Black were among the performers who sang at a Conservative rally during the 1987 general election, while Neil Kinnock's Sheffield rally at the last election boasted messages of support from Billy Bragg and Mick Hucknall.

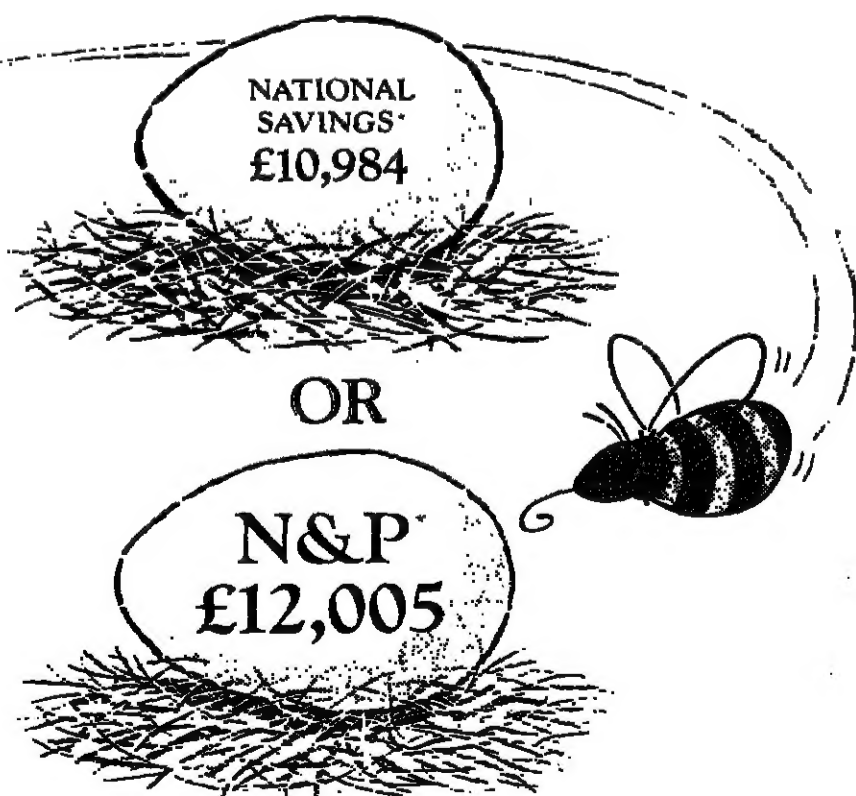
As a rule of thumb, I think it best never to vote for any politician who has chosen "My Way" for his desert island disc. It is a sure sign of extreme self-satisfaction. If he rose to the cabinet under Mrs Thatcher, it inevitably means that he is also something of a fibber.

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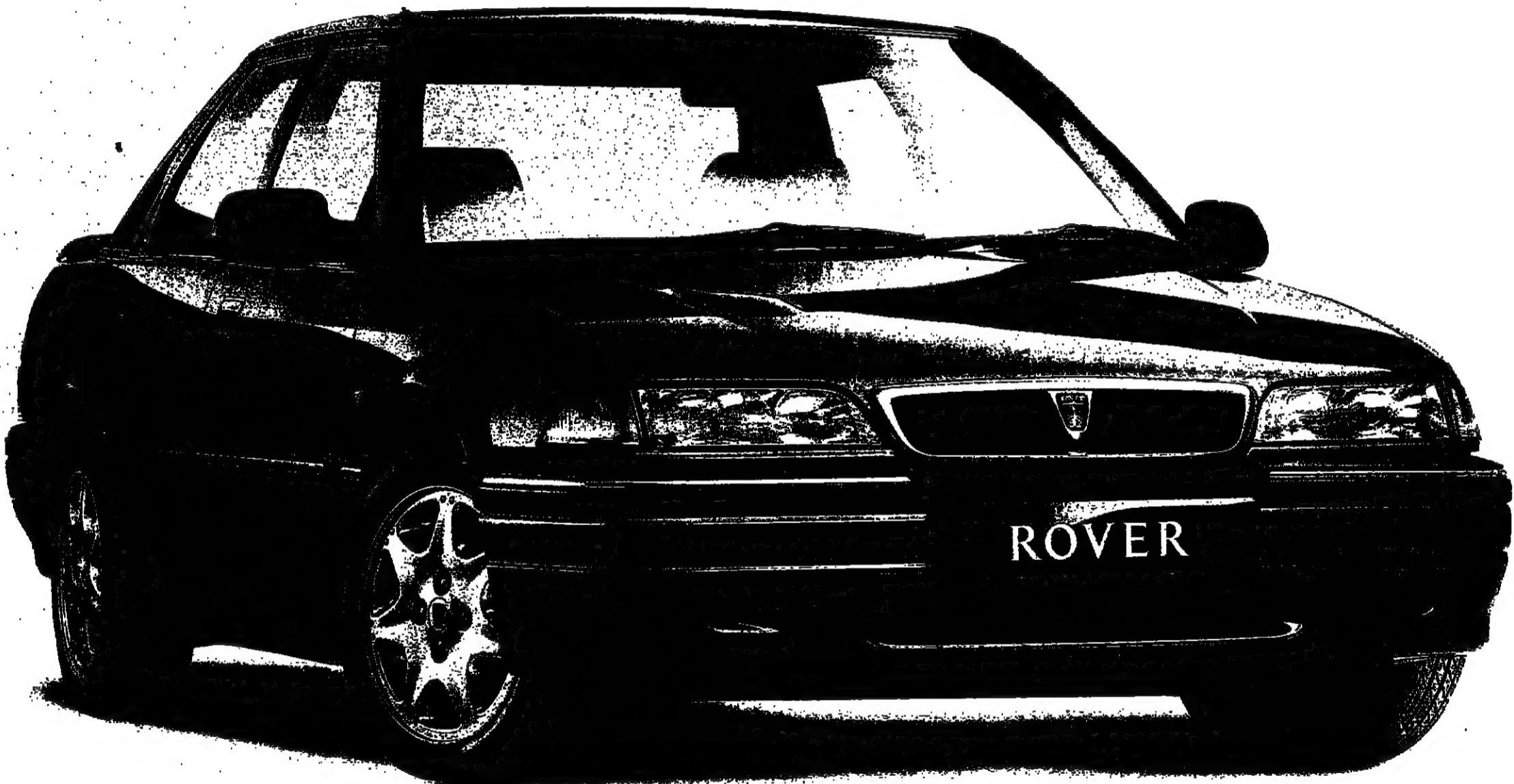
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£1.5bn saved on original forecast

Supertrain's performance helps cut tunnel link cost

MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of building the proposed Channel tunnel rail link between Folkestone and London has been cut to £3 billion, £1.5 billion less than originally forecast for the early route into King's Cross station via Stratford.

About £500 million of the saving comes from altering the gradient of the line from one in ninety to one in forty, enabling the rail link to follow the hills and valleys of Kent, substantially reducing the number and length of tunnels, cuttings, viaducts and embankments. Rail engineers had been far too cautious in their initial calculations of the capabilities of the new fleet of

■ A new generation of trains that can climb steep gradients has enabled BR to cut the number of tunnels and viaducts planned for the Kent countryside

Transmanche supertrains, assuming that the hills and valleys along the route of the rail link would have to be all but levelled out for the trains to operate successfully.

Engineers now accept that the new £500 million fleet of trains, which are being built by GEC-Alsthom, the Anglo-French rolling stock manufacturer, will be far more powerful than they had expected. As a modified version of the highly successful French

Train à Grande Vitesse, which came into service on the new Atlantic line between Paris and Le Mans in 1989, the new trains will be able to negotiate far steeper gradients than British trains.

The modified gradient will form part of a package of proposals for a lower-cost rail link to be submitted to the government in December by Union Railways, the recently formed wholly-owned British Rail subsidiary responsible for

designing and building the 70-mile high-speed line to the Channel tunnel.

The Union Railways team will provide ministers with what is being referred to as a "reference case" railway, a basic transport system which will generate the maximum revenue from passengers at the minimum cost of construction. The Union Railways submission will also include a series of options designed to improve the rail link's transport, development, and environmental features, which will have to be approved by ministers.

The transport options include a variety of improved commuter services for Kent residents, similar to those suggested by BR in the proposed southerly approach for the rail link, which was rejected by the government last year.

The development options, which include new stations and junctions, are designed to promote economic growth to help to regenerate north Kent and the East Thames corridor. The environmental options will seek to limit the impact of the rail link by putting the line in tunnels where possible.

Altering the gradient of the rail link could, however, prove to be a mixed blessing. Extensive use of tunnels, cuttings, and viaducts would have a substantial impact on the countryside, but they would reduce visual intrusion and noise from passing trains. Conversely, following the contours of the countryside reduces the volume of earth works required but increases visual and noise intrusion.

Mike Odling, the chairman of Kent county council's development, planning, and transportation committee, said that altering the gradient could be a "double-edged sword". Tunnelling is expensive, and Mr Odling said he could see why British Rail wanted to reduce the rail link's costs. "But it cannot be done on the cheap, regardless of the interests of Kent," he said.



MICHAEL POWELL

Rail sell-off: Katherine Curtis of Christie's with part of a toy train collection expected to fetch more than £50,000 at auction in London on November 27 (John Shaw writes). The set consists of more than 500 Hornby-Dublo items covering the company's entire output from its first models in 1938 to the final ones in 1964. Hugo Marsh, head

of the firm's toy department, which has handled model railway sales for 20 years, said yesterday: "It's the biggest and most comprehensive Hornby-Dublo group we've ever sold. You can trace the collection from a child's pastime to an adult enthusiasm and allegiance to an outstanding British manufacturer." The owner has requested anonymity. Boxes in the firm's basement include his first layout, the locomotive Duchess of Atholl, two coaches and several goods wagons. The owner kept all his rolling stock in the original boxes and when he went abroad he bought rare export issues. The sale also has a selection of pamphlets and instruction books.

Gang members jailed for part in £35m gold smuggling racket

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE members of a multi-million pound gold smuggling racket were jailed for between two and five years by Southwark Crown Court yesterday. The conspiracy involved tonnes of bullion and more than £5 million in lost VAT.

Eight members of the gang, including Robert Neil, the leader, were convicted last week after a Customs investigation that tracked 110 smuggling trips involving £35 million in gold bullion, brought into Britain from Luxembourg in hollow sections of cars.

Investigators were unable to establish an accurate picture of the level of the smuggling because Luxembourg has refused to co-operate. Some internal Customs estimates put the VAT loss as high as £20 million, rather than the £5 million that officers could prove in court.

Yesterday, Judge Negus

sentenced two couriers, two minders and a jeweller involved in the racket. Neil's father-in-law, Patrick Cogley, 59, of Flitwick, Bedfordshire, was jailed for three years, and Neil's stepson, Michael Taylor, 26, of Islington, north London, for two years. They had acted as "general assistants", or minders, for some of the 4.5 tonnes of bullion involved in the plot.

Marvina Houghton, 44, of Weymouth, Dorset, and Norma Boxall, 46, of Croydon, south London, were each jailed for three years for acting as couriers. Subash Jogia, 36, of Harrow, northwest London, was given a five-year sentence for acting as a receiver who disposed of the gold.

Neil, 54, of Knightsbridge, west London, will be sentenced in four weeks' time, with Vivian Jenkins, 29, of Hanwell, west London, who was a courier, and Raj Desouza, 37, of Greenford,

west London, a jeweller and receiver.

Investigators involved in Operation Babysitter, which caught the gang, suspect that they could have uncovered many more gold runs. When they began their operation in 1990, the smuggling runs were well established but investigators were denied records from the Luxembourg dealers who sold the gold. The Luxembourg authorities have refused to co-operate, arguing that the investigation involved fiscal, rather than criminal, offences.

Customs officials said that they were investigating straightforward sales of gold. Attempts were made through the EC to get Luxembourg to help, but to no avail. Both France and Belgium did help the investigators. Attempts were also made to trace the money made by Neil, but again Luxembourg blocked them.

Sherry by another name tastes as sweet

BY ROBIN YOUNG

MAKERS of "British sherry", which is to disappear at the end of 1995 as a result of an agreement with the Spanish government, were confident yesterday that their brands, concocted from imported grape pulp, chemically produced alcohol, colouring and added sugar, would continue to sell well even when they cannot be described as sherry any more.

In recent years "British sherry" has outsold real sherry, from the production area around Jerez in Spain, because of an excise duty and value-added tax advantage of about 80p a bottle. The total price advantage, at about £1 a

bottle, more than offset what discriminating customers insisted was an inferior taste.

Spanish sherry used to sell half as much again as its ersatz British rival, but the proportions have been reversed since British producers cut the alcoholic strength of their sherry to 15 per cent to benefit from a lower rate of duty after Spain joined the European Community in 1986. Though a High Court decision in Britain had accepted that "sherry" was a corruption of Xeres, an old spelling of Jerez, the law by which Spain joined the EC allowed use of the term "British sherry" to continue until the end of 1995.

The Spanish subsequently prepared a case against Brit-

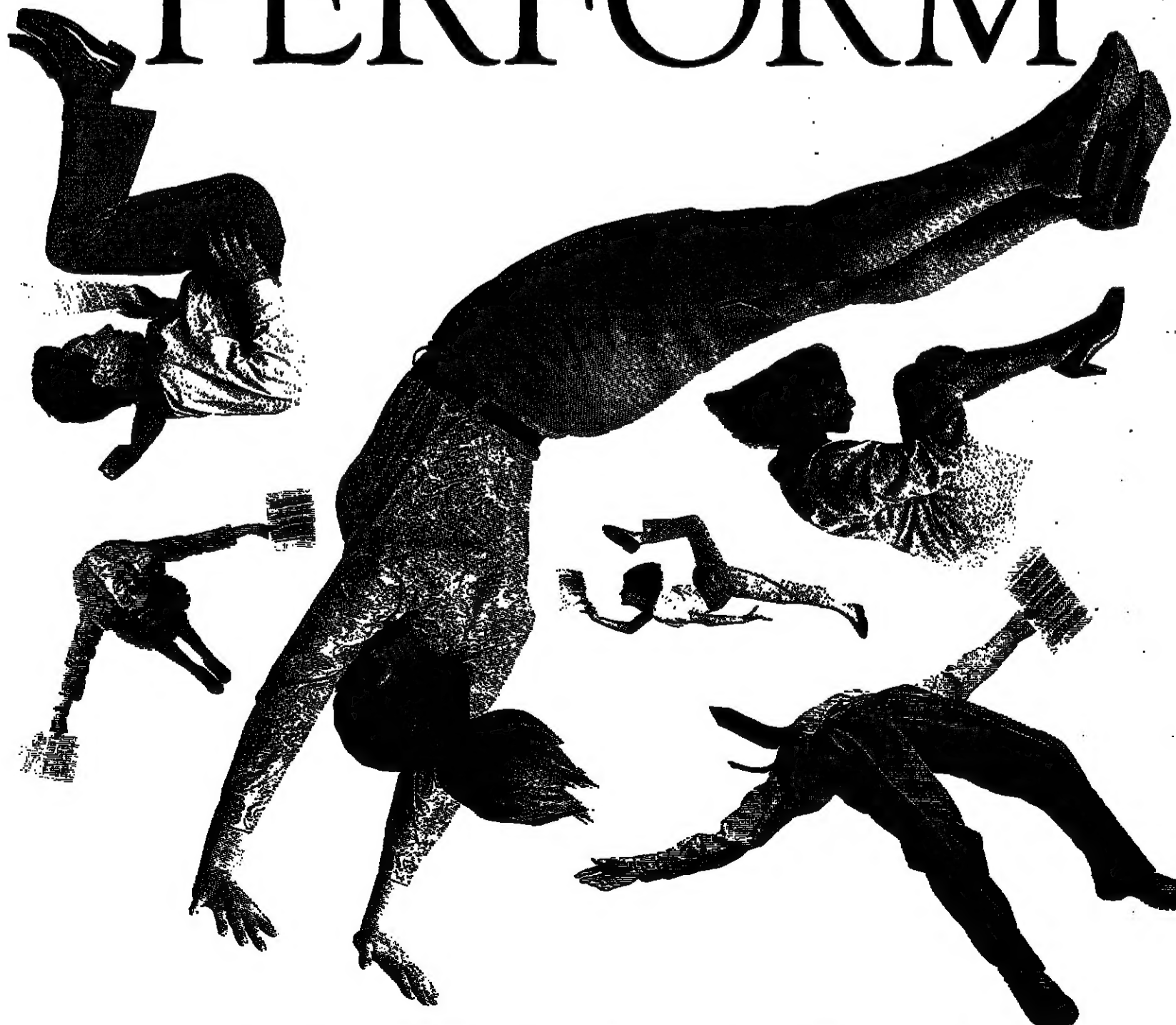
ain to take to the European Court of Justice, arguing that British excise duties had been used to discriminate illegally in favour of British "sherry". Spain this week agreed to drop the court action while the United Kingdom promised to stop calling the British product "sherry" after 1995, and agreed to reduce the difference in duty between the products to 25 per cent by the end of 1996.

John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Gaymer Group, which manufactures QC and VP British sherries, said yesterday: "Of the possible solutions discussed, the one decided upon is the one we preferred. We do not expect the agreement to affect sales of

British sherry." The company had been planning for some time to have to sell its products on their brand names alone, and not as "sherry".

The brand leader among British sherries is Old England, produced by J.E. Mathew, a subsidiary of Matthew Clark and Sons, with an eighth of the market. QC sells slightly less, while VP, "a price-fighter" brand, has about one third of the bigger brands' market share. A fourth brand, Copperfield, sells almost as much as VP, though three-fifths of the British "sherry" sold goes under the own-labels of supermarket and off-licence chains. What it will be called come 1996 remains a trade secret.

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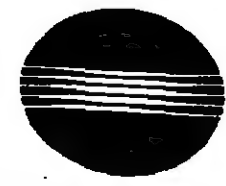
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MINOLTA

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

8

Top-security inmates spend thousands on personal comforts

■ A report by the chief inspector of prisons raises the question of whether some inmates are using the spoils of their crime to finance a more comfortable life in jail

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SIX terrorists and robbers imprisoned in a top-security unit have together spent more than £13,000 in 12 months on items to make their lives more comfortable.

The men, who include convicted members of the IRA, are in Leicester prison. Each spent about £2,000, which is £1,800 more than the annual limit set by the prison service, according to a report published today. The report questions the extent to which the men should be able to buy personal comforts.

Judge Stephen Tumim, chief inspector of prisons, says that the amount spent raises the question of whether those convicted of serious crime should be able to benefit from money they may have obtained illegally.

The six men spent the money in the 12 months to October last year while they were held in a unit for inmates identified as exceptional security risks. In the report, Judge Tumim says that they were the most stable and intelligent of prisoners in the jail but that they, rather than the prison staff, managed the day-to-day affairs of the unit, which had a

small multi-purpose gym. The men cooked and cleaned but did no other work.

Defending the level of spending, Judge Tumim says that it could be argued that the ability of the men to finance the lifestyle that they enjoy was compensation for the restrictions and disagreeable conditions in which they lived.

The Home Office said that prisoners were allowed to spend £115 of their money a year, with an additional £75 for those in top-security units. The cash, provided by friends and relatives, was held by staff and used by prisoners to purchase items such as books, radio cassette players, tapes, record players, sports clothing and musical instruments.

Another report says that staff and inmates at Stafford prison have condemned it as a "sin bin" in which overcrowding and lack of funds have changed little during the past three years. Judge Tumim attacks the absence of an improvement in conditions and says that many of the recommendations of a previous report on Stafford remain outstanding. "We found little had changed at Stafford since

our last inspection," he says. He repeats the final sentence of his 1990 report in which he said the prison was overcrowded, under-resourced and unsuitable in design for its present role.

During an unannounced inspection at the prison in February, the inspectorate found that many prisoners lived two to a cell even though some cells were vacant. The report estimates that inmates spend on average less than six hours a day out of their cells.

Prisoners criticised poor food, cold cells and the absence of cleaning materials. They resented a regime based on containing potentially disruptive inmates and said that boredom led to frustration and bad behaviour.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said the government aimed to end overcrowding at the jail but was restricted by the urgent need to find places in prison for people held in police cells. He added that the level and range of activities at Stafford had been increased.

HM Prison Stafford and HM Prison Leicester (HM Inspectorate of Prisons, Home Office).



Dead or alive? the three masks of Nelson that will be brought together for the symposium at the Royal Naval Museum on Friday

Nelson controversy stares historians in the face

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE three existing "death masks" of Lord Nelson will be brought together for the first time this week in an effort to resolve the historical controversy that surrounds them.

Many experts believe that a plaster cast mould for the masks was created on board the *Victory* after Nelson's death in 1805. New research suggests that the muscular structure of the masks does not correspond to that of a dead man's face.

Some think that the original mould may have been taken from Nelson's

face while he was still alive — an unusual and uncomfortable experience. Others say that they may have come from one of the many sculpture busts of Nelson.

The Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth will hold a symposium on Friday in an attempt to solve the mystery. The leading expert on Nelson's portraiture and principal exponent of the "life mask" theory will join a Madame Tussaud's sculptor and a mortician from Farnborough Hospital, southeast London, to sift the evidence.

Lesley Thomas, curator of artefacts at the museum, said that the contro-

versy had raged for years. "Some of the theorists think that Nelson's masks were made when the body was brought off the *Victory*, but that has been discredited because he would have been in a barrel of spirits for some time and would not have been in a fit state to have a mould cast."

The origin of the Nelson death masks is not their only mystery. Their whereabouts between Nelson's death and their appearance in various naval museums is unknown. One of the masks was given to the Royal Naval Museum by Queen Mary in 1924. She had bought it from an antique market on the Isle of Wight. Another

came from the memorabilia collected by a descendant of Nelson.

The masks show a full-tipped man with a fleshy nose and a narrow face; the eyes are closed and the brow furrowed. Had the mould been taken while Nelson was still alive, he would have been forced to sit for several hours with a heavy plaster cast covering his face from the hairline to the chin. He would have breathed through two straws in his nostrils.

Colin White, the Royal Naval Museum's head curator, said: "However much we think we know about Nelson, he always manages to surprise us with something new."



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Tyndale's familiar words back in print

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE English Old Testament that underpinned the King James bible and laid the foundations of language and sayings now taken for granted is published this week for the first time in nearly 450 years.

William Tyndale's Old Testament translations, the first from the original Hebrew into the English vernacular, led, with his New Testament work, to his martyrdom on a charge of heresy in 1536 after he fled hostile English authorities to work on the Continent.

Tyndale coined some of the best known biblical phrases, such as "Let there be light", "male and female created He them", "am I my brother's keeper?", "a man after his own heart", "the apple of his eye" and "a land that floweth with milk and honey".

Earlier English bibles had depended on the Latin Vulgate and were not widely known. Tyndale had finished his New Testament and the Old Testament up to the prophet Jonas when strangled and burnt at the stake at Vilvorde in The Netherlands. The authorities in Britain bought and burnt any of his books imported from the Continent. The Bristol Baptist College has the only complete copy of an original Tyndale New Testament.

An old-spelling facsimile of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the bible, was issued in 1894 and 1967, but Tyndale's complete work, with the historical books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, has not been available since 1551.

Although Tyndale is said to have done for prose what Shakespeare did for poetry, he is little known outside academic circles. David Daniell, edi-

tor of the modern-spelling edition, published by Yale University Press, is writing a biography and intends to make Tyndale better known. In 1989, Yale published Tyndale's New Testament. A committee has been formed to celebrate, in 1994, what it thinks is probably the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Dr Daniell said the King James version was 90 per cent Tyndale in the New Testament and 80 per cent in the Old. One difference is where, in Tyndale, the serpent says to Eve "Tush, ye shall not die", against the Authorised version's "Ye shall surely die".

Dr Daniell, a lecturer in English at University College London, said: "Modern translations, although able to use better Greek and Hebrew texts, have lost the skill of writing in English which addresses people memorably. Many are racy and bland. I feel there is a backlash. People want to go back to something which is more immediate to the heart."

Leading article, page 19



Tyndale: admirers plan a celebration

Dole queue fear hits high street spending

By ROBIN YOUNG

ONLY two-fifths of households in Britain have enough spending money to make their custom worth wooing, according to analysts from the Henley Centre for Forecasting.

It calculated that 2.7 million households were directly affected by unemployment, after analysing the impact of financial and psychological factors that constrain consumer spending. A further 5.7 million are limiting their spending because of the fear of unemployment.

Indebtedness rose sharply through the 1980s, with the average household owing £13,000 by the end, compared with £3,500 at the start (at 1987 prices). Michael Willmott, a director of the centre, said yesterday: "There is unlikely to be a major rebound in the economy for some time yet."

CACI, the market analysis company that helped to compile the report, matched the Henley data against its own to classify towns and cities into four groups. Central Liverpool, central Birmingham and the Tyne-Tees area have never recovered from the recession of the early 1980s. Bristol, Tunbridge Wells and Brighton are hit by falling house prices and high fear of unemployment.

York, Ipswich and Edinburgh are among the "cautious but prosperous", where a better mix of employment cushions the effects of recession. Wealthy towns "surrounded by a sea of prosperity" include Richmond upon Thames and Windsor.

Zoo starts breeding scheme to save itself from extinction

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

LONDON Zoo is to spend £17.5 million on a conservation and breeding programme over the next ten years in an attempt to save itself from closure.

The zoo will become a breeding ground for endangered animals such as Asian lions, Sumatran tigers, black rhinoceroses and lowland gorillas. Sir John Chapple, the zoo's president, said: "Zoos have no right to exist in the late twentieth century unless they can show they are good for animals."

A change in marketing will emphasise the zoo's role in conservation, rather than as a place where the public can stare at strange animals. Colin Tudge, a new member of the Zoological Council that runs the zoo, said: "We are going to appeal to people's intelligence rather than tell them they should come along and buy a rubber snake or whatever. We are on the verge of showing we

can pay our way and, if that happens, people are going to want to put money into the zoo."

The zoo will keep a variety of non-endangered animals, such as giraffes, because of their educational value. Other plans include the rebuilding of the Mappin terraces, the return of bears, a restructuring of the aquarium, a new children's zoo and a conservation area giving information about the rainforests.

More detailed announcements will be made in January. Funding will come from corporate sponsorship and private donations. A private benefactor has already promised to fund the children's zoo. The council chose the plan put forward by Dr Jo Gips, its chief executive, from five others that included a staff buy-out and a £61 million development by David Laing, of the construction family, David Prince, of Laing, said

that the company would still be prepared to work with the zoo, but that he had doubts about its financial viability. "Since we believe they haven't got any money for their scheme, it's quite difficult to see how they could realise it," he said. He added that the consortium was now looking at sites elsewhere, including Docklands and King's Cross.

The zoo has had financial difficulties since government funding ended in 1988. It was recently saved from imminent closure by a donation of £1 million from the Emir of Kuwait, as well as by public donations and an increase in visitors. About a third of the staff were made redundant and a third of the collection moved to other sites.

An endowment fund has now been set up to contribute to running costs. The redevelopment will be carried out gradually, as funding becomes available.

China snubs Patten at start of Hong Kong talks

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, arrived in Peking yesterday for the first time since he took office and met with what was widely interpreted as a snub by Chinese negotiators. Mr Patten has been having a long-distance row with Peking over his plans for democracy in Hong Kong and his visit is seen as an opportunity for the two sides to thrash out their substantial differences.

On his arrival, however, Lu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macau affairs office, failed to meet Mr Patten at the airport, saying he was in a meeting. In his place, Mr Lu sent his deputy, Chen Ziyang, who said pointedly he hoped Mr Patten's visit would help "restore" co-operation be-

tween Britain and China on Hong Kong's future.

There has been speculation that Peking's displeasure is so deep that Mr Patten may be denied an audience tomorrow with Li Peng, the prime minister, usually a matter of course for a visiting governor.

Mr Patten said there were "a number of tough and difficult problems to cope with in the next few years", but was confident they could be dealt with in a "calm, sensible, serious and dignified way". China is perplexed by Mr Patten, who is seen as less compliant than previous governors. He has conceded on two important points, agreeing not to appoint pro-democracy activists to the Hong Kong Executive Council and not to increase the number of directly elected seats on the Legislative Council. But in his policy speech this month, he proposed changing the way in which some legislative councilors would be chosen in 1995, making them effectively directly elected.

Peking has branded the proposed changes "irresponsible", and has threatened that after 1997 it will simply reverse anything it does not like. As long as Mr Patten sticks to his guns on democratisation, officials say China is likely to withhold its support for the construction of Hong Kong's new airport, thereby obstructing the multibillion-pound project.

Taipei: Taiwan plans to draft a special law to clarify its relations with Hong Kong after the colony reverts to China in 1997, a senior government official said yesterday. Huang Kun-huei, the chairman of the cabinet's mainland affairs council, told a legislative session that his agency is collecting data to draft the new law, which will set out Taiwan's travel, trade and investment policies towards Hong Kong.

The Nationalist government still claims to be the rightful ruler of the mainland and bans any official contact with Peking. Despite Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese rule in five years' time, the Nationalists have said they will not withdraw their representation there.

Taiwan will continue to promote trade ties, tourism and other exchanges with the territory, Mr Huang said. Taiwan's new law on political and economic ties with the mainland will not apply to Hong Kong. Under the law approved in July, Taiwan will allow direct transport, mail and trade links with China when Peking recognises the Nationalist government as a political entity. (AP)



Negotiating stance: Chris Patten listening to a translation of comments by Chen Ziyang, the junior Chinese official dispatched to meet him in Peking yesterday

Parliament clears way for blacks in Pretoria cabinet

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's white-dominated parliament voted on Tuesday to allow blacks to serve in the cabinet for the first time in the country's history.

In passing the Constitution Amendment Bill, legislators in the separate white, Coloured (mixed-race) and Indian chambers of parliament approved repealing a requirement that anyone appointed to the cabinet must become a member of parliament within 12 months.

In its dying days, the parliament, in which the blacks have no representation, is proving to be more difficult to manage than it ever was during the worst days of the apartheid regime. The government of President de Klerk has found that its proposals for bringing in new laws have twice been frustrated in the short extraordinary session now ending.

The House of Representatives, in which MPs from the Coloured community sit, failed to pass another amendment to the constitution by the required special majority, and the government yesterday had to abandon the clause which would have allowed Mr de

As President de Klerk battles to engineer sweeping national reforms, party in-fighting is getting in his way

Klerk to appoint any cabinet minister to preside over a cabinet meeting in his absence.

But much more embarrassing to the government is the hold up to its Further Indemnity Bill, under which people who have committed crimes with a political motive may be granted a secret indemnity from prosecution. It is the kind of measure that the white regime needs to have in place to satisfy those officials, police and soldiers who carried out illegal acts against the opponents of apartheid, so that they are not left open to vengeful prosecution under a non-racial regime.

Yesterday two parties in the House of Delegates, where representatives of the Indian community sit, objected to the bill, taking up the African National Congress's argument that such a measure of amnesty can be granted only

by an interim government. The Solidarity Party and the National People's Party both resisted the bill during a meeting of the joint standing committee on justice.

Parliamentary sources indicated last night that the crucial clauses which allow indemnity to people not yet charged or convicted will not be passed this session. Parliament reassembles this morning for what is expected to be the last day of the session, when the report from the joint committee will be heard.

There was further parliamentary good news for the ANC yesterday. Arthur Roper, a Labour Party member in the House of Representatives, announced that he was joining the growing number of MPs who are joining the ANC.

Several MPs from the Democratic Party in the whites-only House of Assembly have already joined, and last week another Labour Party MP also signed up. To counter-balance this, a number of other Labour Party members have joined the Democratic Party. The new ANC members will sit as independents, because the ANC has not yet registered as a political party, preferring to remain a liberation movement.

PoW move pleases America

FROM JAMES DRYDEN IN WASHINGTON

VIETNAM and America appear to be moving closer to establishing diplomatic relations after Hanoi promised to provide information on the fate of more than 2,000 US soldiers who are still unaccounted for nearly 20 years after hostilities between the two countries ended.

Hanoi's pledge to co-operate on resolving the issue of prisoners of war and men thought to be missing in action came after talks between the two countries at which more than 4,000 photographs of Americans who died in action or captivity were studied. The State Department would not say how it obtained the photographs.

The breakthrough came after American officials, led by retired General John Vessey, showed hundreds of Vietnamese-made photographs to Hanoi officials during talks last Saturday. The Vietnamese conceded that they had thousands more death-scene pictures taken by Viet Cong insurgents and North Vietnamese army photographers.

In a joint communiqué issued in Hanoi late on Monday, General Vessey announced that Vietnam had provided important information about American troops still listed by Washington as missing in action. In the light of "accelerated co-operation", the statement said, "the United States will move more rapidly toward normalisation of relations".

Russia unlocks its musical treasures

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

MORE than two million rare recordings, hitherto locked away in the archives of the Russian State Television and Radio Company (Ostankino), will soon be released in the West in what musicians have described as "the greatest musical windfall ever".

The collection contains about 400,000 classical works, including the premiere of Benjamin Britten's Cello Concerto and a number of performances by Shostakovich playing his own piano music. Few of these recordings have ever been heard outside the former Soviet Union, and many were not even released there.

The collection is now being catalogued and transferred to digital audio-tape in Moscow in a joint Russian-American venture known as USSU (United States and Soviet Union) and a selection of recordings will be available in America early next year.

Dating from the 1930s, the collection includes more than 60 hours of performances by Mstislav Rostropovich, both as conductor and cellist. La Bohème conducted by Herbert von Karajan and Beethoven's Ninth by Claudio Abbado and Haydn's trios played by Rostropovich, Leonid Kogan and Emil Gilels. "These are incredible musical and cultural treasures," Tristan Del, chairman of USSU Arts

Group, said. The Ostankino library also holds a wealth of performances by musicians from outside the former Soviet Union: songs (in Russian) by the American singer Paul Robeson, concerts by Pete Seeger, and performances by Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Arthur Schnitzler and many others.

Musicians say the extraordinary value of the collection lies not only in the forgotten performances of famous musicians but also in the variety of musical talent that may have existed in the Soviet Union over the past half century largely unnoticed by the rest of the world. "We will jointly discover a fabulous new array of performers," Yuri Kornilov, general director of Ostankino, said. "Their talents equal some of the greatest names known today."

Before the collapse of the Soviet regime, royalties were not paid to foreign artists, but the organisers say all appropriate payments will be honoured in the new venture.

The reorganisation of the archive, which also contains recordings of speeches by Stalin and other Soviet leaders, is certain to attract the attention of historians as well as of musicians, adding to the cultural, political and historical reassessments brought about by Russia's political transformation.

YOU have a son. And he's missing. He's not at a neighbour's house. Not out late with friends. Not missing like that. Your son has literally 'disappeared.' Naturally you contact the authorities. Their reply is short and brutal. Make any more enquiries and they'll kill you.

Blood stains. You're scared. You fear the worst. And it happens. Witnesses identify military police and detectives as being involved in the 'disappearance.' And, a vehicle used in the abduction is discovered. Burnt out, it has blood stains on the seat covers.

This is no imaginary story. It's real. And it happened to the parents of eight youths, on the same night, in the same incident. In Rio de Janeiro, July 1990.

As yet, none of the eight has been seen again. But with the thousands of other reports of abuse that Amnesty has on file, it's not hard to imagine their fate.

Shot, burnt and buried. Perhaps they were tortured. Their bodies mutilated beyond recognition. And tossed into the gutter like rubbish.

Perhaps they were summarily executed. Shot at point blank range. Their corpses burnt and dumped onto one of the many clandestine burial sites.

Whatever their ordeal, tragically it's not an unusual one for Brazil.

In June 1990 Amnesty published a report highlighting similar atrocities there. It prompted the Brazilian Parliament to set up an investigative commission, whose findings agreed with those of Amnesty.

Namely, that in many cases, the abuses were carried out by off-duty police officers in a cynical effort to 'clean up'

the streets from crime. But, despite the promise of the then Brazilian President to '...not again be a country cited as violent in reports by Amnesty International,' the carnage has continued.

Stop this slaughter. It is vital then, that we strengthen our efforts to stop it. We must continue to maintain pressure on the authorities and governments responsible.

And not just in Brazil. But India, Turkey, Romania and everywhere that Amnesty has reports of violence against children and young people. They must not be allowed to carry on such blatant

Kids. You can never find them when you want them.

The parents of Ernesto Paes. 'Disappeared.' 21 October 1990.



abuse of human rights. And they must be brought to justice for past violations.

Amnesty International can help to achieve this. But only with the support of people like you. This week is Prisoner of Conscience Week. Focusing on the human rights of children and young people around the world.

Children who need your help now.

What can you do? You can make a donation. We desperately need funds to research and highlight cases of abuse. Otherwise they will be forgotten. You can become a member. It's only £15. And you can get as involved as you want. From letter writing to being active in a local group. You can even do both.

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Greens' guiding lights extinguished in shadows of despair



Kelly: a candle burning for other people

By PATRICK MOSER
in Bonn and
Richard Owen

THE discovery in mysterious circumstances yesterday of the bodies of Petra Kelly and Gert Bastian shocked many Germans, not least those for whom the pair symbolised the hopes of the anti-war and ecological movements.

Frau Kelly, with her intense political passion and frail, almost ethereal beauty, was easily the best known face of the German Greens during their rise to prominence in the early and mid-1980s, at least until the clash between Green "fundamentalists" — led by the equally forceful Jutta Dietrich — and the "realists" tore the movement apart. The strange death of Frau Kelly in many ways marks the formal end of a movement which at its height had several deputies in the Bundestag and forced

anti-pollution and anti-nuclear policies on to the German and European political agenda.

The German police yesterday found no suicide note and the post mortem examination showed no signs of illness. Friends of the two were stunned. Police found the bodies after relatives, surprised at not having heard from the pair, raised the alarm.

It was not clear when they died: officials said they were last seen alive at the beginning of the month. Acquaintances spoke of a tragedy marked by the despair of two people whose lofty ideals were crushed under the weight of bitter disappointment at seeing the increasingly fractious party lose much of its former strength and support. Frau Kelly, one of the co-founders of the party in the late 1970s and one of its most eloquent

The German Greens once rode the crest of environmental passions. But the party tore itself apart and the strange death of Petra Kelly puts the final seal on its decline

and influential politicians, fell from the public eye after she distanced herself from the Greens two years ago amid evidence that voter support had dwindled.

The Greens, who had made significant inroads in parliamentary politics in Germany and exerted influence elsewhere in Europe in the 1980s, failed to gather enough votes to return any deputies to parliament in the first elections in unified Germany in December 1990.

Herr Bastian had already left the Greens three years earlier, claiming that the party was infiltrated by former communists and that its poli-

cies were one-sided. He claimed they were anti-American and lacking any real condemnation of the Soviet arms build-up.

"I think the way they were found shows how they had been abandoned and pushed to the fringes," said Konrad Weiss, a spokesman for the eastern German Alliance 90 group, which is allied to the Greens. "It showed how cold the political climate has become in Germany."

Oskar Lafontaine, the prime minister of the Saarland state and deputy leader of the Social Democrats (SPD), paid tribute to the former deputies, saying: "We

were committed to the same goals: against the arms race and for the preservation of peace, against nuclear power stations and for the defence of the environment."

Frau Kelly was often said to have acquired not only the Irish name of her American stepfather, John E. Kelly, but also the fighting spirit of the Irish. Born in 1948 in the west German city of Gueznburg, of a German mother and Polish father — who abandoned his family when she was seven — she travelled to the United States in 1960. There she attended high school and university in Washington DC, and took her grassroots courses in political activism, participating in anti-Vietnam war protests.

She returned to Europe in the 1970s, where she worked as an administrator at the European Community's headquarters in Brussels, be-

coming involved in peace, feminist and environmental movements. She once said she was lured to the utopian ideas of the SPD under Willy Brandt, the former chancellor, but left the party later, claiming that Brandt's successor, Helmut Schmidt, sold out the party's ideals.

Her ebullience, her ease with the media, and her demonstrative activism quickly made her one of the Greens' leading members. She was a parliamentary deputy from 1983 to 1990.

Herr Bastian was born in Munich in 1923. He volunteered for the army in 1941 at the age of 18 and by 1945 was in charge of a tank battalion. After the war he joined the arch-conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union and volunteered for the Bundeswehr, the West German armed forces, in 1956. Promotion was quick

and he rose to the rank of major general. In the 1970s his political convictions began to change and his opposition to Nato's deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe became increasingly embarrassing to the German military establishment.

But the world has changed dramatically. Since the Greens' heyday East-West relations have been transformed and concern for the environment is a mainstream political issue. Frau Kelly continued to fight against what she told *Der Spiegel* were the evils of our time: war, population growth, exploitation of raw materials, "the misery of mankind". She was once described by a German magazine as a "candle burning at both ends — and always for other people".

Sara Parkin, page 17
Obituary, page 21

Nato gears up for peace operations throughout Europe

By MICHAEL EVANS,
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
in GENEVA
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NATO defence ministers, meeting at Gleneagles yesterday, ordered contingency plans to be drawn up for peacekeeping operations across Europe. The alliance's military committee was given until early December to prepare proposals. The decision was seen as the first practical step towards developing a new military role for Nato.

"One cannot imagine that such a successful alliance will close its eyes and ears to what is happening," Volker Rühe, the German defence minister, said, referring to conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, proposed early-warning monitoring to prevent conflicts from developing and said it was important for Nato to become involved in peacekeeping training.

The alliance has already made the first move in adopting a peacekeeping role in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Elements of a mobile military headquarters are being shipped to Bosnia as part of the United Nations expanded force in the former Yugoslavia.

The ministers agreed that it was important for France to be involved in such operations, although the French are not part of Nato's military integrated structure. In Bosnia, a French commander, Major General Philippe Morillon, is

The Western alliance's search for a new role may soon be over. Practical steps to reorganise are under way

to command the expanded 6,000-man UN force. As for Germany, Herr Rühe made clear that although Bonn could not send troops, it was keen to help with logistical support whenever possible in places such as the former Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, in Sarajevo, the general commanding UN peacekeeping forces was detained briefly at gunpoint, prompting a sharp protest to Bosnia's Serb leadership. A statement from the peacekeeping force (Unprofor) said that General Hossain Abdel-Razek and three of his staff were held by gunmen for ten minutes on Monday on the road to the city airport after a dispute over identity papers. "Unprofor is protesting to the Serb leadership over this flagrant denial of freedom of movement for UN forces in the city," the statement said.

In Belgrade, Pavle Bulatovic, the interior minister of the rump Yugoslavia, moved into the headquarters of the federal government yesterday after his ignominious eviction from his ministry on Monday by the Serbian police. Mr Bulatovic moved office as a stalemate developed

in the power struggle between his government and that of Serbia. Observers suggested that the Serbian officials were going through the ministry files, removing evidence linking the Serbian government to illegal paramilitary forces, to "ethnic cleansing" and to war crimes.

The Yugoslav officials were evicted on Monday in a move that humbled Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister. The Serbian authorities said that the eviction of Yugoslav officials was part of a property dispute, but the brutal manner in which it was done suggests that it was a show of force by President Milosevic's Serbia.

Milos Vasic, the respected commentator from the opposition magazine *Vreme*, said that he suspected that Serbian officials were removing incriminating evidence from the building, which could be used against them in any future war crimes trials. He also said that the seizure of the building was an attempt to thwart any thought by the federal authorities of building an effective police force loyal to them.

□ Geneva: General Satish Namblar, the Unprofor commander, said yesterday that the UN flag was now flying over a strategic Croat region long occupied by the Yugoslav army. He told a press conference just before talks between President Tudjman of Croatia and President Cosic of Yugoslavia: "Our monitors have moved in and the UN flag is now flying on the Prevlaka peninsula." (Reuters)



Setting the lines: designers Emanuel Ungaro and Angelo Tarlazzi for Guy Laroche paraded this striped outfit among their softer new lines in the Louvre yesterday, but Paris fashion's most radical designers can join the exclusive clique of couturiers known as the *Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne*.

foreign trade, announced changes to the statute governing the industry. Not since Christian Dior dramatically dropped hemlines for the New Look in 1947 has France updated the strict rules that decide which designers can join the exclusive clique of couturiers known as the *Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne*.

Amnesty tells of child torture

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN are being tortured, killed or arbitrarily detained by governments round the world, according to a report by Amnesty International.

"Children and young people are particularly vulnerable, but instead of protecting them all too often we see governments killing, torturing and imprisoning them," Amnesty reported yesterday.

The largest number of executions of young people — five — were carried out in America, and over the past 10 years seven countries were known to

have executed young people for crimes they committed when still juveniles. The report said that in Turkey, Kurdish children had been murdered by both government forces and guerrillas belonging to the opposition Kurdish Workers Party. In Brazil and Guatemala, children living rough on the streets were being targeted by police.

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Russians suspend Baltic pullout

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
in VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

THE Russian defence ministry has announced that it is suspending the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states. Moscow says that it needs to find them accommodation in Russia, but the decision is clearly intended to put pressure on Latvia and Estonia to grant additional rights to local Russians who moved there under Soviet rule.

Earlier this month, the Russian officers' assembly in the Baltic appealed to the Russian constitutional court against Moscow's decision to speed up military withdrawal and officers' leave unless their living conditions in Russia are guaranteed. President Yeltsin has said that Russia does not intend to sign an agreement on withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia "as long as they do not pass legislation in accordance with international standards". Sergei Stankevich, one of his senior advisers, said yesterday that Russia hopes for "the help of international public opinion, and especially the Council of Europe, in restoring a normal life to 1.5 million Russians in Latvia and Estonia".

However, there are signs in the two states that military withdrawal has been proceeding rapidly. A Russian defence ministry official said one reason was that the troops had been finding it difficult to buy provisions since the introduction of Baltic currencies. Russia has accused the Baltic authorities of violating the principles of the Helsinki Conference. Several Western spokesmen have said that they do not think Russian rights have been violated, but Miguel Martinez, president of the European Council's parliamentary assembly, said this week that denial of citizenship rights could be an obstacle to Estonia joining the council.

Relations with Russia will be one of the main challenges faced by the new Estonian government. The prime minister, named on Monday, is Mart Laar, 34. Like the president, Lennart Meri, he belongs to the centre-right Fatherland alliance, the largest group in parliament. The coalition also includes the National Independence party, a right-wing nationalist group which is led by former dissidents, and the Moderate Alliance, based on the Social Democrats. Lagle Parek, the leader of the National Independence party, who holds strong anti-immigrant views, is the interior minister.

Prague: Slovakia has postponed for "technical reasons" plans to dam the Danube and divert its water for the Gabčíkovo hydro-electric scheme. Hungary claims the project would pollute water and alter the border. (Reuters)

Warsaw: Ronald Bukowski, the only deputy in the communist parliament who voted against martial law in Poland in 1981, has died at 64 of a heart complaint. (AP)

Opening move: Kuwait: The emir inaugurated the first parliament since the Gulf war after keeping his vow to hold democratic elections. He urged MPs to rebuild and defend Kuwait. (AP)

Naked ape: Kuala Lumpur: A male orangutan stripped naked a French tourist and fled with his clothes in a sanctuary in the Malaysian state of Sabah. The man's wife was not molested. (AFP)

When pressed, however, one official said no general guarantee could be given of files being made available on request. He pointed out that the Russian parliament had yet to pass proper legislation defining state secrets and the status of government archives.

In any case, the ministry's most sensitive files will almost certainly be held back. The method by which Russian politicians conduct their power struggles may be a little gentler now than in Beria's day, but as the current Gorbachev-Yeltsin feud illustrates some general principles remain unchanged. The art of securing and exploiting compromising material on one's opponents remains a vital political tool.

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Clinton emerges as unruffled pacemaker from great debates

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE American presidential campaign entered the final straight yesterday with Bill Clinton still lengths ahead after Monday night's third and last debate in East Lansing, Michigan. President Bush finally had his stride during the confrontation with a display of vigorous aggression sharply at odds with his lethargic performances last week. It undoubtedly raised Republican spirits, but commentary and instant post-debate polls all suggested it was too little, too late.

With 13 days to go, Mr Bush is trailing by up to 19 points. No presidential candidate has ever recovered to win from such a desperate situation and there is growing talk of a Democratic landslide.

Officials of both camps had agreed previously that the unprecedented series of three debates in just nine days, each watched by more than 80 million Americans, was the president's last real chance of catching Mr Clinton. In the event, the Democrat emerged error-free and practically unscathed. The Arkansas governor headed westwards from

■ The president fought well in his final encounter with the Arkansas governor. It could be too little, too late

Michigan to campaign today in such traditional Republican strongholds of Nevada, Montana and Wyoming. Seeking to evoke the optimism of the Kennedy era, he urged Americans to have the courage to opt for change, adding: "We have two hard weeks to go."

Mr Bush, tellingly, rushed southwards to bolster his support in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, states he should have locked up weeks ago. "We are going to get them back," Mr Bush said of the millions of voters who have deserted the Republicans this year. The president, who will be on the road non-stop until November 3, was clearly cheered by his Monday night performance.

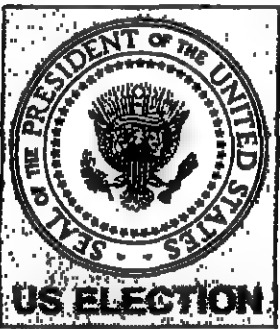
However, Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, was unimpressed. "He was definitely more aggressive, but not necessarily more effective."

Ultimately, the debate appeared to have done little to change the dynamics of the race. An instant ABC News poll showed 30 per cent of respondents thought Mr Clinton won, 26 per cent Ross Perot and 21 per cent Mr Bush. An NBC poll gave Mr Clinton 35, Mr Perot 30 and Mr Bush 23. A CNN-USA Today survey had Mr Perot on 37 with Mr Bush and Mr Clinton both on 28.

Mr Bush produced no new allegations, but his message was far more focused and coherent than hitherto and he managed at least part of the time to make Mr Clinton the issue. He warned "Mr and Mrs America" to "watch your wallet" as Mr Clinton would "sock it right to the middle-class taxpayer and below". He accused his opponent of equivocating on Operation Desert Storm, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and his Vietnam draft record.

He tore into Mr Clinton's record as governor of Arkansas. Repeatedly he recalled how the economic "misery index" went right through the roof in the Carter years, the last time that the Democrats controlled both Congress and the White House.

Mr Clinton appeared unruffled and retaliated in kind. He defended his Arkansas performance with a string of impressive statistics. He condemned Mr Bush for pledging no new taxes to win the 1988 election when he knew he would be unable to keep the promise. At one point, he expressed amazement that Mr Bush should make trust an issue when he had broken his word on taxes, was now the "biggest practitioner" of what he had once condemned as "voodoo economics", and had toured the country dispensing money

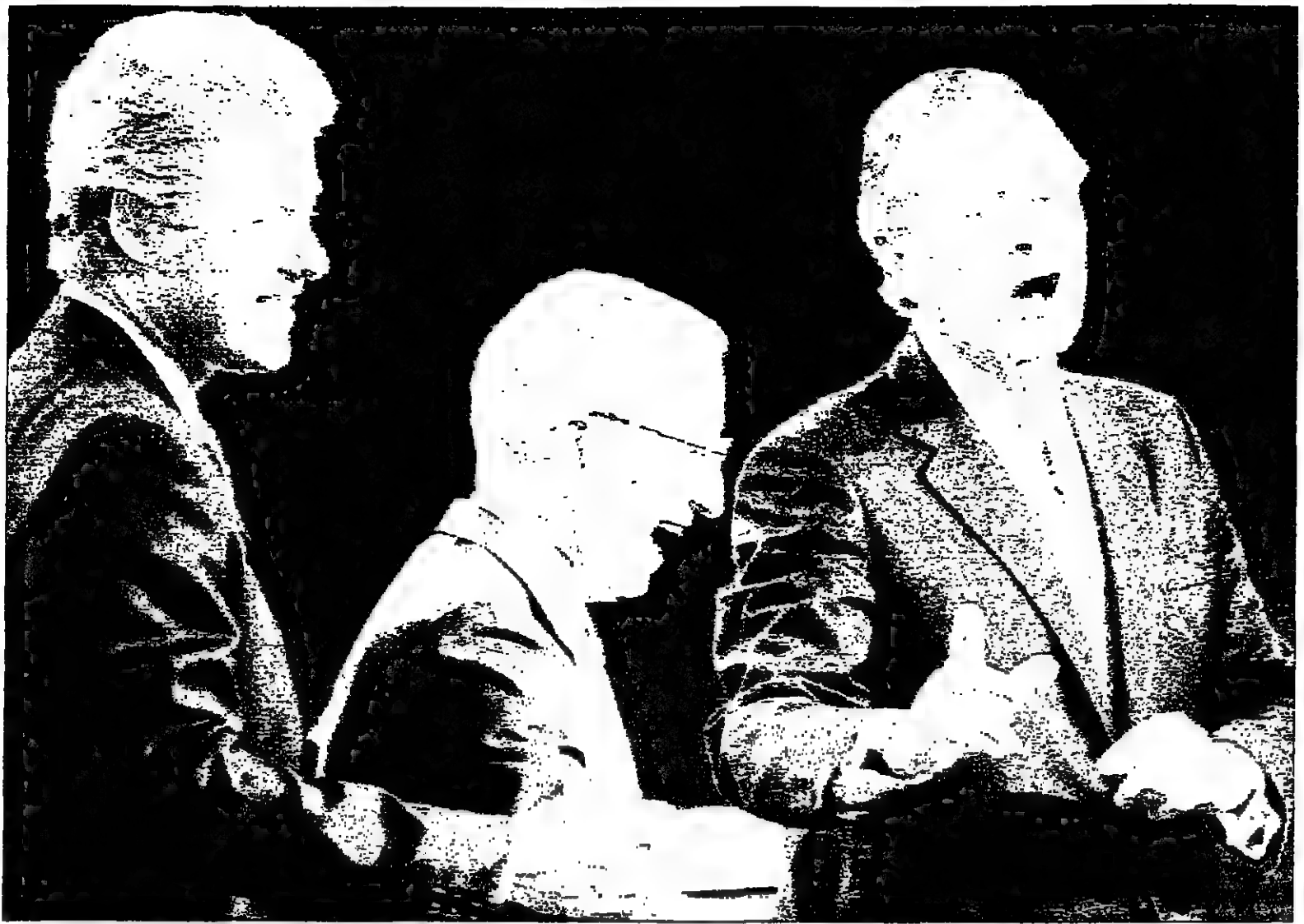


for programmes that before the election campaign he had opposed.

Mr Perot exchanged his earlier folksiness for a coldly confrontational approach and his interventions were almost always to Mr Clinton's advantage. The Texas billionaire said he had been the victim of an "absolutely sick" operation by the Republicans to blacken his name. He accused the Bush administration of "creating" Manuel Noriega, the former Panama dictator, and President Saddam Hussein with billions in taxpayers' money. The sharpest exchanges between the three men came when Mr Perot claimed that the administration had secretly told Saddam he could take northern Kuwait.

Whether Mr Bush wins or loses on November 3, this was the last of a record-breaking series of appearances in televised debates that began in 1980 in snowbound New Hampshire when he was fighting Ronald Reagan for the Republican nomination. After Monday's debate he lingered on the stage, chatting amiably with Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary, and daughter Chelsea.

Anthony Howard, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Having the last word: Bill Clinton, Ross Perot, and President Bush winding up the third and final televised debate between the candidates, held at Michigan State University in Lansing. An opinion poll of viewers suggested Mr Clinton was the clear winner of the confrontation

Perot rejects the media message

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THERE is nothing that raises Ross Perot's over-developed hackles like a journalist.

In the last televised presidential debate on Monday night, the independent candidate lashed out at the media, as he has done throughout his campaign, describing reporters afterwards as "teenage boys" who would "do anything for a 'gotcha' story. You guys hate the fact that the American people put me on the ballot," he grumbled, "but I don't care."

Not to be outdone, President Bush delivered his own attack, referring to a bumper sticker that can be observed on most vehicles in the Bush campaign entourage which reads: "Annoy the Media - Vote Bush".

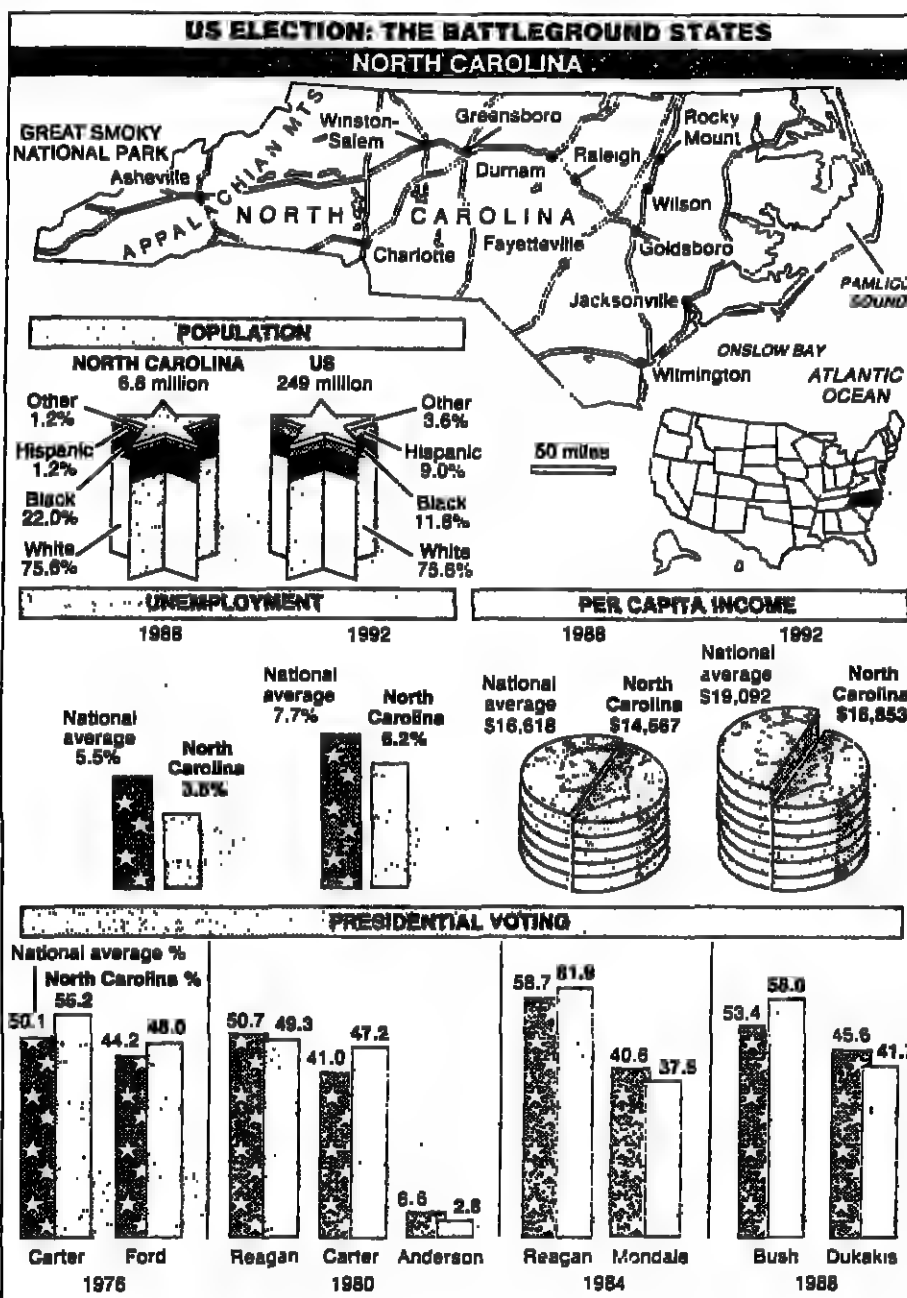
Complaints against the "liberal media" have always been a part of presidential campaigns. Eisenhower poured scorn on "sensational-seeking columnists and commentators"; Agnew came up with a tongue-twisting but effective attack on the "nattering nabobs of negativism"; Dan Quayle, a vice-presidential candidate who has more reason than most to loathe the fourth estate, broadened the attack to include the "media elite"; his sweep takes in journalists, Hollywood film stars and even fictional soap opera characters.

During the Republican convention in Houston, Texas, many delegates wore badges proclaiming "Don't believe the liberal media". This sentiment has not, however, stopped Republican campaign managers from "spinning" the media for every ounce of favourable coverage. They have made no secret of the fact that media-bashing is a central tactic, and Rich Bond, the party chairman, admitted from the start that his policy has been one of "working the refs" with a steady barrage of complaints. Media purges have traditionally rejected, but slyly revelled in such attacks, which feed their sense of self-importance.

But both Mr Perot and the Republicans have a point: in the past few weeks the robust opinion poll figures for Bill Clinton, the Democratic contender, have been reported with an ill-concealed glee, while Mr Perot's return to the presidential race was not simply attacked, but ridiculed. Republicans point to surveys which show that most journalists are liberals and Democratic voters, and the Centre for Media and Public Affairs in Washington has, for the past six months, conducted an analysis of television election coverage in search of bias. The results showed that on the air 45 per cent of journalists praised Mr Clinton, while only 31 per cent were kind about Mr Bush; with Al Gore and Dan Quayle, the Democratic and Republican vice-presidential candidates, the results were 75 per cent and 37 per cent.

It could be argued that such statistics represent the mood of the country, rather than partisan journalism. What the Republicans call "the liberal media lynch mob" has strung up Democrats and Republicans alike in recent years, as Gary Hart, Jo Biden, and even Mr Clinton can testify. Statistics suggest that Mr Bush and Michael Dukakis, his Democratic opponent, were equally savaged in 1988, and in 1980 President Carter was far more harshly treated than Ronald Reagan, his Republican challenger.

Analysts at the media centre say that, if their research proves anything, it is that journalists tend to be more critical of incumbents (perhaps compensating for the fact that voters tend to be less so). The Democrats point to the escalating criticism against the media as a sign of panic in the Republican ranks, which conveniently ignores the fact that their own candidate has himself been through the media mill. The message is not working, they argue, so the Republicans have decided to beat up the messenger.



Rabin urges Palestinian 'realism'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE seventh round of the Middle East peace talks opens in Washington today with little prospect that Arabs and Israelis are any nearer reaching an agreement after 12 months of dialogue. There were no signs that Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian negotiators were bringing with them enough fresh ideas to help break the diplomatic log-jam.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, told the London-based Arabic newspaper, *al-Hayat*, yesterday that he expected little progress in talks with Palestinians until their leadership took a more realistic and conciliatory position, and added that no real agreement could be reached with Damascus until he met President Assad of Syria face-to-face.

In key discussions on the future of the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the two sides are bogged down over what kind of self-rule would replace the Israeli military administration during a five-year transition. The sluggish pace of negotiations would certainly not be helped if President Bush loses next month's election.

US carrier planes spot threat to Shia rebels

Saddam builds roads into marshes

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
ON BOARD USS RANGER
IN THE GULF

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein is conducting an intensive road-building programme to increase access to the marshes in southern Iraq, in what Western experts fear may be the prelude to a final military push against Shia Muslim rebels and refugees.

The construction has been monitored by allied pilots enforcing the "no-fly" zone imposed in August and recently reported to Washington. Dennis McGinn, the captain of the aircraft carrier from which many of the warplanes fly, told *The Times* the details. Diplomatic sources said the building of roads, which could be used to deploy tanks and heavy artillery, was an obvious provocation. "If [President]

■ New evidence is emerging from allied pilots that the Iraqi leader may be preparing for a big push against dissidents

Bush wants a last chance at Saddam before the election, this looks like it," one Western official stated.

"It appears there is an attempt to create some sort of transportation infrastructure in what had previously been marshlands whose primary communications were boats and waterways," the captain said on his giant ship, 120 miles from Iraq.

An estimated 10,000 rebels and 200,000 refugees are sheltering in the marshes, which lie at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They were the target for frequent air and land assaults

by the Iraqis before the exclusion zone south of the 32nd parallel was declared.

The reports provide dramatic evidence to support the claims by Shia rebel sources in Iraq that the Iraqi army is intending to flush the Shias out of the malaria-ridden marshes by a combination of draining and improved access for a land assault.

In Baghdad, senior officials are optimistic that if Mr Bush is not re-elected the measures taken against Iraq, including the imposition of the "no-fly" zone, will be watered down.

However, senior officers on board the *Ranger* insist there

are no grounds for this belief. Allied officials emphasised before the flying ban was imposed that it could be "ratcheted up" if Iraqi ground forces continued to pound the Shias. It is unclear what the official response would be to any road-building that could assist such an offensive.

Pilots on the *Ranger*, a floating city with a complement of 5,100 men and 80 warplanes, said that Saddam had so far been careful not to infringe the flight restrictions. However, the crews carry an assortment of dollars and family portraits to mollify any Iraqis, if their planes are brought down. "I always carry a picture of the family," Lieutenant Walt Martins, a navigator on an A6E Intruder, said. "Arabs have a lot of respect for family values, and that can help."

Mystery grows over millionaire's death

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE violent death of a reclusive multi-millionaire in the mountains of Santa Monica has set in train a mystery story that could have been made for — and will almost certainly end on — a film set in Hollywood.

At dawn on October 2, Donald Scott, 61, a man of fabulous wealth and retiring habits, was shot and killed at his ranch home by a team of police and drug enforcement agents. The agents say the eccentric millionaire was cultivating marijuana on his property, but no drugs have been found and Mr Scott's widow, Frances Plante, 38, is suing her husband's killers on charges of causing wrongful death.

The most sinister twist to the tale is the spreading rumour that the raid had nothing to do with drugs but

was a government ruse to seize the land surrounding Mr Scott's ranch. The government Park Service has long tried to buy the 200-acre ranch but Mr Scott had rejected every offer, saying that the land should remain private.

According to some lawyers, if drugs had been found on Mr Scott's property the land might have been confiscated under federal seizure laws. Officers of the National Parks Service were present during the raid, but Captain Larry Waldie, head of the sheriff's narcotics bureau, has strongly denied any ulterior motive.

The heir to a fortune estimated at up to \$100 million (£62 million), Mr Scott seldom left his ranch and deeply distrusted gov-

ernment and police, refusing to file tax returns and seldom venturing into the star-spangled world that is Malibu's social life.

For much of the past decade he has enjoyed a semi-mythical status in the myth-prone world of California's rich and infamous: he was the man who collected Cadillacs and attack dogs, who wore the clothes of a tramp and lived in the hills above Malibu.

But he was not without glamorous friends, and a private memorial service for him last Saturday was attended by, among others, Robert Mitchum and Clint Eastwood.

The precise circumstances surrounding Mr Scott's death are still hazy, but many of his friends are accusing

the notoriously trigger-happy Los Angeles sheriff's department of killing an innocent and gentle man.

When the 26-man drugs team broke into Trail's End ranch at daybreak on October 2, Mr Scott allegedly was sleeping off a night of heavy drinking. He emerged bleary from his bedroom brandishing a .38 revolver above his head and was told to drop it. Seconds later he was shot twice in the chest and died.

The police say he had pointed the gun at one of the deputies, but Ms Plante claims that Mr Scott, whose sight was badly affected by recent cataract surgery, was lowering his gun when the deputies opened fire.

As to any drugs, "they didn't find a stem, they didn't find a seed, they didn't find a joint," the family lawyer said.

Hands off the nutty dresser

We had better slap a preservation order on the British beauty *au naturel*. The stiff march of Escadawoman into public and corporate life is threatening to stamp out all our creative, individualistic assets where matters of appearance are concerned.

Just at the point when the charms of eccentricity and nonconformism are being lauded by international fashion as the qualities of the moment, British women have upped and set their sights on looking like a nation of newsmen.

It is an unhappy transformation. At party conferences and political photo calls, where wives are required, there is something poignantly sheepish about Escadawoman. Far from at ease in her posh new outfits, she looks like somebody who has been abashed and bullied into dressing that way.

Which is exactly the case. The bullies are the tabloid newspapers, which, since the mid 1980s, have set themselves up as the kangaroo courts of British style. Every woman in public life must now run the gauntlet of bitchy editorials that pronounce on their supposed fashion crimes and successes — according to a law book made up by editors whose idea of perfection is the 25-year-old executive tart in a 12in skirt.

The tragedy of it is that the more a woman tries to deflect unwelcome comment by conforming to tabloid taste, the more attention her appearance attracts — and the more disastrously her dignity and seriousness are undermined.

The 1980s notion that uniform power-dressing would somehow force people to get past the issue of what women look like and direct attention towards what they say and do has proved a dangerous chimera. It merely upped the stakes in the professional woman's beauty contest. We are all cowed by it. Bring back Shirley Williams, I say.

A certain disregard for one's appearance is a great British virtue and, if only we knew it, one that is revered in the highest places of international fashion. What it implies, to foreign eyes, is unshakable confidence in one's own worth, a complete lack of fear of the opinion of strangers and, above all, the astonishing moral superiority that comes from the belief that there are more important things to worry about in life than what you look like. This sterling sense of self-worth is precisely what British women are losing by anxiously dressing to please.

Christian Lacroix, for one, has noticed that the heroic reserves of female British self-consciousness are dwindling fast. In his new book, he laments the disappearance of the throw-together way of dressing that he admired so



SARAH MOWER

much in the English women he saw in the streets of London in the 1970s. He credits their woolly stockings, clumpy shoes and not quite matching clothes as among the foundations of his oeuvre.

Similarly, visit Azzedine Alaïa in his studio in the Marais in Paris, and you will see among his snapshots of supermodels and Tina Turner, a large portrait of the Queen Mother. "Ah, La Reine Mère," he will sigh, clasping his heart in all sincerity.

The women these most influential of fashion designers admire — the inaccessible tribe of grand old girls, very deep in the shires and the hinterlands of Harrods — are those few remaining individuals who are impervious to passing modes.

By bourgeois British standards, this is an unacceptably patronising point of view. We do not wish to be known, let alone acclaimed, as a nation of nutty dressers. Yet it is by this eccentric sensibility alone that British fashion has made its mark. Moreover, at a time when the entire thrust of fashion is about finding ways of combining unrelated garments and mixing past and present, it is a special talent that is more relevant than ever before.

Still, there is one woman who stands fast by the "what does she think she looks like?" school of British dressing. It makes the provincial British blush to think it — but Vivienne Westwood is indisputably the most influential woman designer at large in the world today, precisely because she is unafraid to dress and create according to her own lights. We should be proud of her but we are not.

Ms Westwood, however, is nothing daunted. On Sunday, as she stood at the end of the catwalk in the Grand Hotel in Paris, receiving an ovation after showing her collection, there was something gracious, serene, almost regal in her mien: something secure, something truly, stirringly British. As the other ladies of her generation perspire miserably into their dated 1980s suits, Vivienne is well on her way to qualifying as a grand old girl in the great tradition. Long may she flourish.

Caitlin Moran explains the ways and means of being a follower of fashion on a student grant

How to stay cool on campus

Heigh-ho — it's cold and it's autumn. Whey-faced and coughing fog, fog in hand nonetheless, Britain's glorious youth, the elite whatever per cent, skid and skip into higher education about nowish, wondering exactly how subsidised is the bar? Will I meet someone who'll actually wanna do it with me? And, most importantly, do I look cool?

Clothes maketh the man, as all first year English students know, and balls well maketh the woman too, as all Sociology students will want to remind me. On-campus fashion (Hal Fashion! Like it's all planned out in advance or something!) is a nebulous, squidgy thing at the best of times, pretty much centred around the ethos of not having very much money at all. This is why huge colourless jumpers that look like the cat's attacked them, and army boots that resemble Victorian kitchen ranges figure pretty largely in the overall scheme of things.

Girls will start the term with *etn* or *wei* pairs of candy-stripe leggings, which defy machine-washing and will unfailingly go kind of "bobbly". Much time can then be spent in the enjoyable pursuit of picking every single bobble off



Hippy look: Georgina Nouri, a student at the Royal College of Art

and making them all into one huge King Daddy bobble. Also at the back of the female student wardrobe should lurk *Girly Dresses* — oh, lots of them, thin and diaphanous, wispy in excelsis, smelling vaguely of cat pee and dope even if you *aj* don't have a cat and *bj* get squiffy on low-bar.

A brief word on lassies' underwear. There are two kinds of lingerie — the comfortable, wearable stuff, and *Blake-Bait*. The first is what you will be wearing when a spontaneous Friday Night Pulling Session is announced. The second is what you will be wearing a "good luck" confidence booster during a tricky exam when the strap breaks and your tits suddenly disappear. Glad we've got that sorted out.

Lads, it is decreed that you

will start the term in sensible trouser-wear and groovy T-shirts, and then things will rapidly progress down hill. Ponchos will generally start to creep in around Christmas. The first raffle waistcoat will pop up some time in the new year, and by Easter it'll be over year, and you'll be walking around town in sheets of red velvet and black lace, or embroidered skull-caps and a huge pair of red trousers, looking hyper-glorious and blitzed

out of your head on Thunderbirds.

But where would one find such wonders? How could one go about actually purchasing a pair of genuine 1970s hipsters with braids tripping down each leg and six zip-pocket details? Where, in essence, do students shop?

The answer is *anywhere that does button-down tank tops for under a quid*. Charity shops, jumble sales, the ubiquitous "Dodgy Ken's Extreme

ly Enormous Bargain Stall", poked away at the unsavoury end of the Wednesday market place.

Charity shops are the best of the three — Mincep is very good at selling big colourful blankets that really look like you could cut them up and sew them into a useful coat, but you never actually can.

Oxfam recently colour-coded its stores, so your local Goths (Devotees of darkness, eyeliner, lager 'n' cider experi-



Casual mode, above: Joyce Hendrie, Mark Breslin and Frazer Porfit from Glasgow School of Art

Bold statement, left: Karen Guthrie from the Royal College of Art



Smart set: Ollie Hinton and Sue Nolan at Manchester University

ments and the inspiration behind Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands" character) can hang around the black section all day, occasionally making forays to the very deep dark purple racks.

And out of all the charity shops, a special mention must go to the Spastics Society, which is making a heroic effort to collate every single brit-nylon blouse in existence in my local branch. Keep up the good work, guys.

And so to smells. You can normally sense a student approaching from a distance of 800 yards, in a crowded shopping centre, with a heavy cold. This is because students love the Body Shop, their rum's Christmas bottle of *Opium* and, that bane of the 1960s, patchouli oil. Why do students love patchouli oil?

"Uh, well, because it, uh, smells of damp bedsheets and the gunny bolls at the bottom of breadbins, and the kind of cheap hairspray that sets fire to your head if someone turns on a light. It's very evocative of my life." So now you know. Also, catching a whiff of

patchouli says subliminally to the sniffer: "Here is a person who knows one end of a spiff from another. Here is a void-eyed wanderer of the widest parts of the cosmos who has, y'know, inhaled."

Because, in the provinces at least, it is still quite cool and vaguely hard to smoke occasionally — mainly because it is difficult to get hold of drugs — it is ridiculously easy to sell anyone in the student union bar a bag of dried privet leaves. Many self-made millionaires must have started their dizzying climb to the top of Cash Hill by peddling pot pourri to desperate art students.

Fashion being a fascinating and multi-stranded thing, we should move on now to accessories. Tattoos are great this year, particularly transfers — they even sell them in the newsagents now! I nipped out for the *Evening Post*, and came back with "Death or Glory" and a cute little picture of an owl emblazoned across my buttocks.

And hair-dyes are great — with the aid of a pot or two of "Directions" bright red, purple or orange gunk, a fire-haired lad or lassie can shimmy through the grey-sided streets of the town, secure in the knowledge they look almost fatally attractive, and that all the old dears standing on the street corners are muttering: "You'll take all the natural goodness out of it by doing that."

But the ultimate accessory this year, last year, for ever and always, albeit too thin ever to have been classed as a proper item of clothing, is a T-shirt of your favourite band. Students everywhere base their first impressions of fellow students by the words emblazoned across their chest. (Or sometimes, if it's a laddie looking at a girlie, just her chest.)

Ride, The Wonder Stuff, Nirvana and Carter The Unstoppable Sex Machine must all be billionaires from their T-shirt royalties alone, and it's always quite amusing to watch first year English students drunk, holding a Ride T-shirt to their ear and running round and round really fast, hoping to hear a tune.

Forget the heroin, just feel the fabric

They saunter down the catwalks in their bellbottoms, Worzel Gummidge hats, patchwork jackets, silk scarves and sequins. Their long frizzy hair flies in their faces, their hands are a-jangle with Indian bells and their long beads whirl round like madcap lassos. After 20 years in the wilderness the Janis Joplin look is back.

Miss Joplin was a big, unkempt girl with a beer belly, puffy nose and dogged pores. Her performances were frenzied, erotic and often drunken. She blazed her way through late 1960s rock and died of a heroin overdose in 1970 aged 27.

Hardly the ideal role model for the recession-ridden, AIDS-conscious 1990s. Her younger sister Laura disagrees. She has written *Love, Janis*, which will be published next week (Bloomsbury, £15.99).

Laura Joplin decided to write the biography after going to a memorial for Janis in her home town three years ago at which 5,000 people turned out. "I was amazed. Janis used to be the bane of our conservative Texas town but now she has become a role model for the younger generation," she says.

"There was something about 1980s materialism that has made people start looking at the 1960s differently.

There was more to Janis Joplin, her sister says, than drugs and blues



Laura Joplin: "She helped to break stereotypes"

People always used to ask me when Janis started doing drugs, how many people she slept with, always negative. But the 1960s was also a time of huge cultural change, challenging your assumptions and being true to yourself."

Ms Joplin is sipping tea in a plush hotel foyer and wearing a subdued trouser suit. Petite as her sister was broad, she has an offin face, neat gold jewellery and tidy features. "I think Janis's greatest claim after her music is that she stood out against hypocritical lifestyles," she says. "She be-

lieved that all people, whether they were black, female, fat or pimply, deserved equal respect and love. The sex and drugs were just extra baggage."

The sisters were bought up with their brother in small-town Port Arthur, Texas. "We had to stick to these high morals — hold bridge parties, go to church and get married. Janis sought out the beatniks, forbidden Cajun bars, the blues and a bohemian lifestyle," she says. "She was idealistic and that word has been forgotten for too long."

Feminists have never claimed Janis Joplin as one of their own. She aped men's ways and was withering to many of her own sex but she helped to break many stereotypes at the time. "Our mother used to say 'Janis why do you scream so much when you have got such a pretty voice' but Janis wanted to be a vocal innovator," her sister says.

She also proved that rock women did not have to be conventionally good-looking to succeed. At college she was nominated for ugliest man on campus and she never got over her severe skin problems. Today, Ms Joplin believes that women need role models like Janis who aren't all long legs and 36c busts. "Janis used to say it was your inner self that mattered and your talent and I think women need that reaffirmed now."



Superhypermost: Janis Joplin

And what about the clothes? When other girls were wearing ballgowns, Janis was draped in beatnik black. When she first visited San Francisco she discovered an old fur-lined flying jacket. "The town we grew up in was not all year round but she hacked off the sleeves and wore it inside out."

She wrote to her family: "A fashion note — thought y'all would like to know what everyone looks like out here. The beatnik look. I call it, it is definitely in. Pants, sandals, capes of all kinds, far out

handmade jewelry or loose fitting dresses, sandals... very tight bell-bottoms. But the boys are the real peacocks. All have hair at least Beale length, boots, tight low pants in houndstooth check, stripes, even polka-dots!"

By the time she took the Monterey pop festival by storm in 1967 Janis and her flatmate Linda Gravenites, a designer, were at the forefront of hippy fashion. "They used to get a black bra and sew beaded flowers onto it and match it with a black velvet skirt or make sequined red and purple hipsters and mix them with exquisite heavy wool waistcoats and cowboy boots," her sister recalls. "The quality of the clothes was always excellent. So was the cut. My mother taught us that."

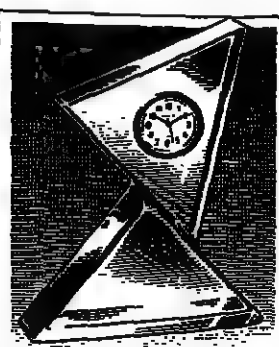
If the Janis look is back, her sister does not believe the rest of her lifestyle will, or should, be imitated by a new generation of fans. Shortly before she died Janis said: "I'd rather have 10 years of superhypermost than live to be 70 by sitting in some goddam chair watching TV." Ms Joplin says remarks like that should be put into perspective.

"People say that Janis wanted to die young. That's rubbish. If you read her letters

there is always the sense of triumph and achievement. She would probably be the first person now to tell kids to stop taking drugs. It is tragic that people are getting into LSD and heroin again."

"Janis and the 1960s don't have all the answers but they were willing to ask the questions. We have talked a lot in America about the Vietnam soldiers in the 1960s and how they did not receive a proper welcome home. Well, I want to give Janis and the 1960s a welcome home."

ALICE THOMSON



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Can Major take the strain?

Black Wednesday was the PM's great test.
Graham Paterson and Andrew Pierce
examine his state of mind, then and now

John Major's charmed political life came apart five weeks ago today on September 16, Black Wednesday. The central plank of his economic and foreign policies, Britain's membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism, symbolising his ambition to be at "the heart of Europe" was smashed. Within days Westminster was abuzz with a rumour, not just about the prime minister's political failings but also about the state of the prime minister's mind that afternoon at his temporary lodgings in Admiralty Arch.

There is a deep reluctance from Mr Major's close colleagues and civil servants to divulge anything about the prime minister's bearing that day. But for five weeks one question has been asked again and again in Westminster and Fleet Street: did he crack up?

The rumour, first referred to by Simon Jenkins in his column in *The Times*, was finally put to Kenneth Clarke by Jon Snow on *Channel 4 News* on Monday. Snow asked directly if the prime minister had "wobbled in a nervous sense", and suffered "a nervous setback of some sort". Clarke, who had spent much of that day closeted with Major, said "he had no nervous turn whatever" but admitted that the PM had been under intense pressure.

David Mellor, one of Mr Major's closest friends, confirms the enormous stress the prime minister is under. In particular he is distressed by the ferocity of press attacks. Mr Mellor told *The Times* "I feel he is going through a crisis. I know that it is deeply painful and distressing to him. But he will not buckle."

Unlike Mrs Thatcher, who rarely looked at the newspapers, Mr Major is obsessed by his clippings. The hostility of a previously loyal Tory press has hurt him and put him under greater strain. Norma Major has banned *Spitting Image* and even *Radio 4's Today* from their Huntingdon home.

"Something is wrong," says Sir Bernard Ingham, press secretary to Mrs Thatcher. "I suspect he is too nice for the job. He takes criticism too much to heart. There is something to be said for being a thug in politics." Again, and again Mr Major's biographers refer to his compulsive need to be liked, an unusual trait in a politician.

Mr Major, who showed himself as a feisty debater in the Commons yesterday, is especially vulnerable to criticism of his intellectual capacity, particularly when it comes from High Tory circles and Old Etonians. Nigel Lawson's disclosure in his memoirs infuriated him. Mr Lawson wrote: "For a time after the 1987 election I was concerned that I might have made the wrong choice of Chief Secretary after all — a view I suspect was shared by John Major himself. He found the job far more difficult than anything he had done before."

Mr Lawson further twisted the knife by saying that Mr Major did not play any part in general economic or political discussions at the Treasury. Mr Lawson supported Michael Heseltine, not John Major, in the Tory leadership contest.

Mr Mellor, however, believes that despite his hatred of being patronised the prime minister can take the pressure. "When the waves cease crashing against the shore, and others are not standing firm, John Major will be standing upright," he states loyally.

Others disagree. One of Mr Major's closest colleagues, in whom he regularly confides, suggests that the prime minister has been at his lowest ebb since taking up office. He agonised over whether to sack David Mellor. He agonised over the position of Norman Lamont. In the words of his colleague, he has been "drained".

Mr Major leads a surprisingly solitary life at Downing Street. His temporary flat in Admiralty Arch was small and noisy and No 10 itself has been a building site for months. Mrs Major spends much of her time in Huntingdon with the children, and when her husband first arrived at Downing Street he could find no one to iron his shirts. He would go for days eating little or nothing. Eventually a maid was hired and Wrens brought in from Chequers to prepare him a cooked breakfast. This by-up is often his only square meal of the day.

He is frequently lonely and is

unsure of who his real friends are. He trusts Mr Mellor, Richard Ryder and Lord Archer of Weston super Mare, but few others. By 9pm Downing Street is virtually deserted. The sense of isolation has become so bad that some of his friends are telephoned at home by the PM's advisers, says a colleague. "For God's sake ring John. Cheer him up," they say. "He is lonely."

Friends acknowledge that Bernard Ingham and Charles Powell may have sometimes over-protected Mrs Thatcher, making her out of touch. But at least it took some of the pressure off her. Mr Major has no such protectors. Gus O'Donnell, his press secretary, while fiercely loyal, and enjoying better relations with journalists than Sir Bernard, has a new baby and goes home long before the prime minister has finished working on his red boxes.

Sarah Hogg, the powerful head of the Downing Street policy unit, is not as warm or sympathetic a figure as Judith Chaplin. Mr Major's political adviser at the Treasury and Downing Street until she won a seat at the election, Mrs Hogg has two young children and likes to get home to see them. Mrs Chaplin's successor, Jonathan Hill, is in his early thirties and relatively inexperienced.

One of the most obvious manifestations of Mr Major's unhappiness and isolation is dramatic weight loss. Associates say he tries to make light of it — "He is always pulling his trousers out and showing how much he has lost" — but the prime minister's diet is cause for concern.

His advisers
phone his friends:
"For God's sake
ring John. Cheer
him up," they say.
"He is lonely."

In his less pressurised days as Chancellor, a job he enjoyed, he ate regularly in the Treasury canteen, wolfing down a three-course lunch. Now, a colleague says: "He doesn't eat properly. He only eats junk food like fish and chips or sausages and mash. He sends out for them sometimes after an official dinner if he is alone in Downing Street. Or they are cooked for him during the day. He picks at official dinners. He does not feel like food because his stomach can get too tight and there is never enough time."

Until recently the prime minister used to relax with a glass of whisky or wine, but in the past few weeks he has given up alcohol. His other relaxation, attending Chelsea's football matches, has also largely gone by the board. He is worried enough about his waning appearance to go to the trouble of having his hair tinted at Trumpers, the Curzon Street hairdressing salon.

According to one expert, the prime minister is exhibiting classic

symptoms of stress. "He's a politician who worries a lot and it shows. I see a man who looks tired and can't cover it up very well," says Cary Cooper, the author of *Living with Stress* and a professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Technology.

Unstable eating patterns, says Professor Cooper, indicate a man in the second phase of a stress disorder. The first phase is behavioural: irritability, inability to make decisions (Major is prone to irritation if he does not have enough rest and needs much more sleep than did his predecessor). The second is physical: back pains, eating too much or too little. The third phase is disease, triggered, though not caused by, severe stress: heart disease and mental ill health are possibilities.

The political crises of the past few weeks have increased Major's sense of isolation. Lately, he has been on the phone to Chris Patten constantly, asking for advice. One minister visited Hong Kong recently and overheard one of these emergency calls. "They weren't talking about China," the minister says.

A friend recalls how badly shaken Major was when forced to accept Mellor's resignation. "He knows he should have at least moved Norman Lamont to another job after the pound left the ERM but he could not bring himself to do it. He knows Michael Heseltine should go. But he cannot sack people. He wants to be all things to all men. He is too

nice. It has ground him down over the summer."

The premiership has robbed Mr Major of much of his family life. Mrs Major, like Mary Wilson, who hated Downing Street, is a private person who prefers Huntingdon to Whitehall. "She is the sort of woman who will cook all day and fill the freezer with nutritious meals for the family for the week ahead," says a friend of hers. "Her freezer is always stocked with home cooking. Shepherd's pies are her speciality. But she never takes them to Downing Street."

The premier is away from home so much that Mrs Major has become great friends with the Special Branch officers based in a hut in her garden. When the Majors went to Spain on holiday this year they had an entourage of nine. Whereas Mrs Thatcher's bodyguards sat at separate tables in bars, Mrs Major insisted they all sit together. "They went round like one big gang," her friends say. "She sees more of them than she does of her husband. They are company for her and the children."

So John Major, even in the view of his closest friends, is surprisingly unhappy for a man who has achieved his lifetime ambition. One of his biographers, Nesta Wynne Ellis, once a devoted admirer, is having doubts. She is adding a new chapter to her biography which will conclude that Major was not the man for the job after all. "I'd characterise him now as someone who's completely lost his way. It's terrible, quite tragic."



SIDE LINE

Time to salute Nelson

May Day holiday could soon be on the move

Should various traditionalist pressure groups have their way, this time next year May Day bank holiday will have been shifted five months and rechristened Trafalgar Day, in memory of the battle fought this day 187 years ago.

"May Day's a waste of time when there's no Communism left," Bernard Rayner, busy selling pigeon food to Spanish tourists in Trafalgar Square, said. "We need to celebrate our own heroes; and let's face it, Nelson was there when we needed him."

Mr Rayner was not concerned about reminding our European cousins that we won; indeed, according to his historical overview, it was just about as much as the French should hope for. "You don't want to open up old wounds, but then you can't think of a battle that they could celebrate in return."

"I'm not bothered about upsetting the French," said Mr Stillwell, on holiday in London from Northampton. "What with their behaviour with the farming and the lambs, it would be good to remind them that we beat them."

Mrs Stillwell was enthusiastic, but hazy about the details. "Was it fought in the Channel? I can't remember. Was it when Nelson lost his arm, or his eye? Or did he die?" She squinted up at Nelson's column. "I can't tell from here. Or was it Wellington who lost his eye? Or Drake?"

The idea has practical appeal: a day off in October would avoid the holiday overkill in May, bisect the long stretch from August to Christmas, and tie in neatly with half term. "Once the holidays are over in May, that's it," Irene Jones from Shropshire said. "As long as we all get a day off, the battle's irrelevant." Irrelevant to all, that is, except the staff at the nearby Battle of Trafalgar pub, who would probably lose their holiday altogether. "We'd definitely have to stay open," the assistant manager Darren Bickell said.

ROSIE MILLARD

Sara Parkin on the legacy of a friend whose fierce commitment to ecology was never compromised

Outsider with a green passion

Sitting before me is a card from Petra Kelly written on September 28 from Berlin. As with most of her correspondence it is full of concern for me and anger at the shortsightedness of others. This time, soon after my decision to leave the Green party, she was sending me love and support from someone who knew only too well the frustration of belonging to a party once so full of promise and hope now reduced to political impotence at the very time it matters most.

When I failed to get her on the phone over the last few weeks I assumed, as many others must have done, that no reply meant that she and her partner, Gert Bastian, were off on one of their many speaking tours. The news that she had been shot by Gert, who then turned the gun on himself, has sent shock waves through Green movements everywhere. My pain at losing a

cherished friend can only be overtaken by the immensity of her loss to Green politics.

I first met Petra in 1979 when she visited England to talk to what was then the Ecology Party. I was 34 and had stood for the first time in the general election. Petra was two years younger than me. She glowed with conviction and common sense. Since then she had been a close friend. We wrote to each other and phoned and saw each other at meetings. The last time I saw Petra was at an Oxford Union debate in February 1991.

For the best part of 20 years Petra Kelly had inspired millions with her passionate commitment to the way ecological thinking can bring peace and justice to our world. Sadly in her own country her passionate energy and generosity caused her as many difficulties as triumphs. Her party owed much of its early success to her energetic leadership and her incisiveness in debate with other politicians or with worldly and cynical TV interviewers. But German history had left the *Grünen* fearful of personality cults and anxious to be a party different to all others — an "anti-party party" as Petra herself used to say. Her bruising arguments with her party over its strategy caused her much hurt and disappointment.

Since the all German elections in December 1990, when the West German greens lost all their 42 parliamentary seats, Petra had continued to give regular talks all over the world. She also started work with Sat 1, a private German television channel, as the presenter of



Inseparable: Petra Kelly and her companion Gert Bastian

Environment Report. Few of her friends were surprised to hear that she had been sacked in June after being unable to play the moderating role expected of her.

Unlike many of her colleagues Petra was able to see German history and politics both as a German and as an outsider. Although born and educated in Germany she moved to the United States with her mother and stepfather in 1960. There she studied world politics and international relations at the

American University in Washington before returning to work as an administrator in the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee of the EC in Brussels.

Petra's contribution to the highly public world of German parliamentary politics is well chronicled: what is less widely known is how generous she was with her time, energy and spirit.

As soon as she became an MP in 1983, she set up a formidable operation from her office in the German parli-

ment. The information she gathered was used to back her own robust parliamentary speeches and cut through any evasion and hypocrisy in either government or opposition. It was also circulated to her many contacts around the world. To be on Petra Kelly's mailing list was a vital source of information for many struggling Green politicians, particularly in poor countries where she was greatly revered.

Her compassion for the underdog and her desire to see justice done, but enormous

strains on her health, already diminished through the loss of a kidney. When her young sister died of eye cancer in 1970, Petra set up a charitable foundation to improve the care of children with terminal or chronic disease.

It was soon after they were both elected to the German parliament in 1983 that Petra and the 69-year-old Gert Bastian became inseparable. Bastian had resigned as a general of the German army to join *die Grünen* and was working with all the passion of a recent convert.

Although he had recently been in hospital following a car accident and was known to be downcast about the rise of right-wing activism in Germany, saying it brought back "evil memories of my youth", it remains hard to see how the charming and courtly man I knew could reach such destructive depths of despair.

As a committed feminist, Petra worked to bring the feminist perspectives of non-violence and conciliation to politics, knowing how important they were to building a green future. That she died violently goes so much against all that she lived for and should have gone on living for.

I think history will one day view Petra as a political figure of the stature of Willy Brandt, her countryman who also died recently. In the meantime, as Europe slides into the economic, environmental and social disarray she dreaded so much it is to the rest of us to redouble our efforts in her memory. It is the very least she would have expected of us.

● The author was chairman of the executive of the Green party
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Bryan Appleyard

The left can take hope from the country's growing sympathy with the underdog

With a stunned and grateful Arthur Scargill having been resurrected, Lazarus-like, by the divine agency of government incompetence, the question now becomes: what further corpses will quicken if the Tories continue to self-destruct? More specifically: is the biggest corpse of all, that of the left, about to breathe again?

This may seem improbable. Neither John "the Quiet Man" Smith nor the rest of his shadowy cabinet appear to possess the kind of radical equipment now required. The incoherence of Labour's assault contrasts damningly with the real passion of the people. The bourgeoisie and even the aristocracy of Cheltenham may march in sympathy with the miners but they are unlikely to sign up for Labour. This opposition vacuum has raised the spectre of a *de facto* one-party state in which the government has only its own backbenchers to fight. In parliamentary terms at least, the left remains an obdurate stiff.

But this may be an illusion sustained only by the obsolescence of Labour. In Cheltenham minds they remain the same old bunch of Trots who tried and failed to camouflage themselves with the rightish trappings of markets and modernity. That does not mean, however, that middle-class minds are not moving leftwards. They are being pushed by bewilderment. For the deepest problem of the coal affair is not the flaring incompetence but the indecipherable complexity.

In their "planning" — a word that, in the present context, demands inverted commas — the Government probably assumed that the simple free-market justification of the Eighties would, in the end, win through. The reserves of guilt and masochism in the nation helped us enjoy and endure the Thatcher lash, no reason why Major should not occasionally pick up her whip.

But at this time nobody is being seduced by the charms of a bracing, free-market rigour because they cannot find it. The strategic and economic arguments about coal defy simplification and, each time we try to understand them, the connection with any sort of market, free or half-free, becomes increasingly attenuated and unconvincing. The whole deal looks seriously rigged. And, if Michael Heseltine cannot provide us with any understandable moral justification, then sucking miners becomes mere sadism. If the morality of this mess is so suspiciously hard to follow, then people will begin to think that the entire competitive, free-market argument is too compromised to command further loyalty.

Furthermore, if we are drifting to the left, we are not alone. In the United States competition from the Asian Pacific rim has generated a good deal of highly interventionist, corporatist thinking. The idea of a government industrial strategy is no longer an affront to the American Way, rather it is being seen simply as the Japanese Way. Mr Heseltine happily embraced this with his, as it transpired, horrifically ill-timed interventionist speech at the Tory conference. But can the Tory party really embrace such an idea without fatally undermining the most successful battle cries of their recent history — free markets, and the self-help culture? For the moment, they are partially protected by the vacuum that is Labour. But a genuine opposition cannot remain inconceivable for long.

The problem for the left is finding a way of institutionalising and keeping alive this change in sentiment. The social democratic, Euro-party option pursued by Labour in the Eighties lacked clarity and was hamstrung by the party's recent past. Above all, it did not have one concept, one unique selling proposition, to set against the bracing appeal of Thatcherism.

The coal affair does offer the left a concept: the concept of justice. The industrial battles of the Seventies and Eighties and the totalitarian mouthings of Arthur Scargill are now sufficiently far in the past for the image of the miner to have regained some of its old, sentimental, salt-of-the-earth appeal. Released from those recent memories, the country is once again free to feel outraged sympathy for the underdog. This may begin as hard-headed demand for justice. Judging by the disillusioned bitterness of many who voted Tory in April, this may already be happening.

Elements in the Labour party are now focusing on justice as the way forward. John Smith has proposed a Commission on Social Justice and, with the post-election hangover fading, a few serious thoughts are beginning to emerge. The most creative idea seems to be to get away from the old, decayed egalitarianism. The last election proved this no longer works. Mr Smith's proposals for massive tax increases were egalitarian in intent; they threatened to sever the connection between work and reward and they frightened everybody.

The point that Mr Smith missed — and may still be missing — was that the popular conception of justice no longer involves a crude levelling procedure. There is a justice of inequality. This involves a high moral conception of work as something to be rewarded because, even when pursued for the greediest motives, it is the one thing that people do that almost always benefits others. Enforcing equality never benefits anybody.

This week a party of justice would be sweeping the country. Labour MPs cannot currently form that party. They require not so much a new ideology as a different set of attitudes and prejudices. They need, in effect, to become something like the American Democratic Party with its battery of unprogrammed, conscience-stricken instincts. But Mr Smith remains trapped, for you cannot have a Democratic Party called Labour and you cannot have Cheltenham if you still have friends called Arthur Scargill.

The Republican party is heading for defeat after the final presidential debate, writes Anthony Howard

Bush's honourable exit

George Bush went into the final presidential debate knowing he had his back to the wall. That awareness lent his performance a certain dignity and, in the last 15 minutes, a sort of fiery defiance as well. The president's much improved showing is unlikely to be enough to save him but in personal terms it means that he can now at least look forward to an honourable exit.

At the end of the debate that seemed to be what his opponent, Bill Clinton, was intent on arranging for him, too. There have been some ice-coring moments during this campaign but none perhaps quite so transparently self-interested as when the Democratic standard-bearer sententiously remarked of his rival: "I do honour his service to our country. I appreciate his efforts. I wish him well." Of course, Governor Clinton was not seriously interested in praising the president: he was simply out to bury him. And, with the help of some equally powerful grave-digging from Ross Perot, restored to his first

debate fighting form, it was a cynical objective that was probably achieved. If this final debate is remembered for anything, it is likely to be for the discreet way in which the last rites were administered to the 41st president.

The immediate future certainly does not look enviable for Mr Bush. Already the murmurs of rebellion are being heard from within the ranks of the Republican party, with even Mr Bush's running mate, Dan Quayle, ominously announcing: "I've done everything I possibly could to help the president." Others running for lesser offices have simply voted with their feet. When the White House offered facilities for photocalls with the president to 400 Republican candidates last week, just 18 turned up.

The role of a prospective loser is always a lonely one and for the next 13 days of campaign-

ing Mr Bush will be enduring what Hubert Humphrey went through in 1968. George McGovern in 1972, Jimmy Carter in 1980, Walter Mondale in 1984 and Michael Dukakis in 1988. Yet not merely had only one of those forlorn figures actually been president; they were also all Democrats. The most sombre reflection for George Bush must be that, if he is defeated on November 3, he will be the first elected Republican (Gerald Ford in 1976 had merely been appointed to the office so hardly counts) to lose the presidency since Herbert Hoover in 1932.

Naturally enough, it is the Hoover precedent that the Democrats have tried to pin on Mr Bush from the beginning. That is why they have hammered away at the theme of his being responsible for "the worst recession in more than 50 years". It was a theme that, if

anything, the president himself reinforced on Tuesday night. He candidly admitted that he had hoped that his tax increases of 1990 would improve the country's economic condition and had been dismayed not so much at their political fall-out (which he had always foreseen) as at their economic impact (which he had not). It has been damaging enough for him to confess that he should never have said "Read my lips, no new taxes", now for him to concede that he got the remedial action wrong, too, has inevitably put him in a double-bind.

If the president does go down to defeat on November 3, he will have lost this election not so much to Governor Clinton as to his own record in office. There is little personal detestation of him among the American people — as there was by the end of President Hoover's term, with

his ludicrous prophecy "I can see prosperity around the corner". Instead, there is simply a feeling that somebody should be held accountable for everything that has gone wrong with the nation's economy — and poor Mr Bush, partly thanks to the wimp image that was hoisted onto him years ago, has not been able to avoid the scapegoat role.

That presumably explains why the Democrats have had things so easy. Everyone knows that their own economic sums do not add up, but for the voters that has never become the issue in the way the Kinross-Smith programme ultimately did in Britain. Even on Tuesday night the president drew remarkably little blood with his repeated accusation that the Democratic spending proposals would lead to those earning as little as \$36,000 having to pay more taxes. The failure of the Repub-

licans to make this charge stick remains one of the mysteries of this campaign — even if Mr Clinton, for his part, may well live to regret his promise "I will not raise taxes on the middle-class to pay for our programmes".

The Democratic candidate scored a palpable hit, however, by insisting: "The person responsible for domestic economic policy in my administration will be Bill Clinton." It is the sense that there has been a vacuum there over the past four years that, more than anything else, has bought the president to the sorry pass in which he now finds himself.

And his recent efforts to repair the damage have not helped either. He leads his party towards polling day with both his secretary of the treasury and his budget director under public sentence of political death and his clearly reluctant (and lately almost invisible) campaign supremo, James Baker, charged with the task of making a fresh start and putting everything right. It has scarcely been a confidence-inspiring spectacle.

Time to call coal's bluff

Public and politicians have responded to pit closures with naivety, argues Simon Jenkins

Was there ever a darker crisis? There have been moments when I have had to pinch myself this week. Has London imploded into a black hole? Is John Major revealed as a serial killer? Has Michael Heseltine been seen wandering Whitehall, barking and on all fours? The media has tossed objectivity to the winds. The 31 pit closures are reported like an air disaster, a cause of great national mourning, a Suez, a Falklands invasion. The Grimethorpe colliery band receives the whispered reverence reserved for Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

In the beginning was the decision and the decision was tough but correct. A cynic might say that a rationale of such a decision is that the press will unanimously oppose it. Tory backbenchers will vote it down as a "matter of conscience" and everybody will attack the government for its "bad handling", thus ignoring whether it was right or wrong.

British coal has long been a commercial disaster, one of Britain's few truly political industries. Unemployed miners deserve sympathy and generous help in retraining. They are getting it to the tune of some £37,000 a head. But what about unemployed shipbuilders, steelworkers, carworkers, bank workers? When you cut them, do they not also bleed? Their communities, in Merseyside, in Sunderland, in the Midlands, in Sheffield are also torn asunder by recession. None other, except possibly farming, has been so featherbedded for so long. And none has the cheek to say to taxpayers that featherbedding gives them the right to special treatment in recession.

In the past 12 months alone, 122,000 building workers have lost their jobs, 38,000 shopworkers, 48,000 in financial services. Where are the *Newsnight* specials on them? Where are the Tory rebels leaping before the cameras? Why is it only a nationalised industry that evokes the maternal instincts of Tory MPs and the Tory press — and then only when its management is struggling to go where those same Tories want to send it, to the market place?

The Nottingham miners have become the industrial equivalent of the old Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, beneficiaries of total irrationalism. I have not seen a single report on energy that regards coal as anything but a dreadful power source. It is ghastly to extract, dirty and bulky to handle, inefficient to convert into power, polluting and corroding. In South Wales every family's dream was that its sons would not have to "go down the pit". Burning coal punctures the ozone layer. Cleaning coal-fired stations is expensive and itself polluting. Coal is inflexible in supply and costly to store. Old, dirty coal generators are relatively cheap in the short term, but who knows if a Brussels directive or a UN protocol will next year insist on cleansing them at prohibitive cost?

At the Rio earth summit last summer the same people now howling for Mr Heseltine's blood were seeking subsidies to persuade China and India to leave their huge coal reserves underground "to save the planet". In North America, 90 per cent of new energy investment is non-coal. Europe's dependence on coal, now 40 per cent, will steadily fall in the face of nuclear power and gas. The reason is not political revenge but every argument in economic and environmental book.

AS the government whips call for the stretchers to ensure that enough bodies go through the lobbies tonight, Douglas Hurd will risk further British insult to the Germans by missing the state banquet hosted by the Queen in honour of her hosts. Last night the foreign secretary, who is accompanying the Queen on her state visit, attended a banquet with Her Majesty thrown on their behalf by the German president in Bonn. However, Hurd will not reciprocate at tonight's return march at Schloss Bellevue in Berlin, hosted by Britain, because the Tory whips have told him it is more important to fly back — at taxpayers' expense — to save Michael Heseltine's cabinet career.

Hurd has been accompanying the Queen on her bridge-building mission since Monday and was due to remain at her side for the rest of the week. Yet, despite the importance the foreign office attaches to restoring orderly relations between London and Bonn, the FO yesterday admitted it had made "contingency plans" to fly back the foreign secretary, who was

forced to confess last week that he had not known about the announcement of the coal mine closures.

Buckingham Palace has already been informed of Hurd's leave of absence and yesterday there was talk of flying a minister from the Lords to Germany temporarily to take his place. "There is no particular protocol, although it is customary for ministers to accompany the Queen on important overseas visits," a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said. Appearing to distance the Palace from the decision, she added that it was purely a matter for the foreign secretary to decide where he ought to be.

London diplomatic circles insist that Hurd's temporary retreat should not be interpreted by the Germans as a snub. In the wake of post-ERM bitterness, that seems a vain hope.

With or without her foreign secretary, the Queen will be hoping that her itinerary is better organised than on her first visit to Germany many years ago as the guest of Chancellor Adenauer. Buckingham Palace officials had let it be known that the Queen was keen to visit Marbach. The Germans were delighted. The



Yet many countries, including Britain and Germany, subsidise coal while taxing oil. They do so because of the emotional nonsense peddled by politicians and newspapers this week. The miners talk about coal making "operating profits". These are calculated after receipt of subsidy and with no allowance for investment. British Coal is rightly seeking to honour its objective of becoming profit-

able. The 31 pits were losing, depending on the bias of one's source, between £25 million and £100 million a month. In the private sector, the auditors would long have called a halt, with human consequences no less tragic than at Grimethorpe and Marbach Main.

At present companies all over Britain are going bankrupt through paying taxes to keep these collieries open. The Treas-

ury blue book on energy (Cmd 9505) reads like *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Critics with benefit of hindsight remark that politics is all about presentation. But for years, coal has been on notice of contraction. In this, Mr Scargill has been right more often than wrong. British Coal was told to prepare for privatisation free of ministerial interference. If it wishes to speed up closures in

line with falling markets, so be it. Thirty thousand miners now at risk compare with four times that number laid off since 1985. Why the hullabaloo?

It may be true, as the lifeboatman says ruefully, that it is best to drown in a full boat or the public will not notice. "They should not have announced 31 all at once." But 20 million tons of unsaleable coal are piling up. Critics say the moribund consultation procedure should have been followed. But why, just to prolong the agony at further cost? Mr Heseltine's tormentors want him to repeat the lunacies of the common agricultural policy and the dock labour scheme, monuments to extravagant government intervention in the 1970s. For Tory rebels to plead this relic of Labour corporatism is extraordinary. These are the same rebels who fiercely opposed Maastricht's social chapter!

And now we have the U-turn, described as the "most devastating of Mr Major's leadership... the most humiliating for 20 years". Even given the current "bias to hysteria" this is ridiculous. Previous great coal U-turns were real turns: Edward Heath's Wilberforce fudge, Mrs Thatcher's capitulation in 1981. All Mr Heseltine has so far done is toss a stick of execution — as a sop to his backbenchers. This is certainly a course correction two days ago. But he cannot suddenly make 31 pits viable. Nor are his backbenchers implying so. They have merely U-turned in favour of bailing out bankrupt industries, and have chosen the worst case on which to do so.

I know that this week's rumour has been code for fury at government inertia in the face of recession; for the distraction of Maastricht, for shame at the exchange rate mechanism U-turn (which was a real one). The press and broadcasting, whose part in this saga has been bizarre, is never more vicious than when it smells the blood of a prime minister and cabinet. Having tasted David Mellor the man-eaters want another.

But that King Coal should rise from the ashes of Orgrave to become the talisman for all this! The defining image of the Unnecessary Recession is a tear running down a miner's blackened cheek. Politicians today should be nurturing the growth stocks of economic recovery, worrying over the loss of skills in engineering, electronics, computing.

Instead they have pinned their consciences to a reactionary protectionism. Coal deals in bullying and battering cabinet after cabinet. It is doing so again. Will nobody call its bluff?

Whipped off for the vote

AS the government whips call for the stretchers to ensure that enough bodies go through the lobbies tonight, Douglas Hurd will risk further British insult to the Germans by missing the state banquet hosted by the Queen in honour of her hosts. Last night the foreign secretary, who is accompanying the Queen on her state visit, attended a banquet with Her Majesty thrown on their behalf by the German president in Bonn. However, Hurd will not reciprocate at tonight's return march at Schloss Bellevue in Berlin, hosted by Britain, because the Tory whips have told him it is more important to fly back — at taxpayers' expense — to save Michael Heseltine's cabinet career.

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limited. She had thought she was being taken to see the horse-breeding centre at Marbach-un-Neckar in the Black Forest.

AS John Major prepares to leave behind the turmoil of British politics for the equally horrifying spectacle of the Egyptian earthquake, the British embassy in Cairo is showing proper concern for the prime minister's diet — and in particular his penchant for the redoubtable potato crisp. Major is flying out for the El Alamein commemoration, and Christopher Long, the ambassador, is said to have dispatched his staff into the earthquake-stricken streets of Cairo to ensure that Major has a supply of this peculiarly Western delicacy. To date, observers say, they have had little success. Might we suppose the British

office files out a selection of plain, salt and vinegar and cheese and onion in the next diplomatic bag?

Two-way Archer

AT LEAST one Tory politician manages to remain a confidant of both John Major and Baroness Thatcher. The unique diplomatic skills of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare were on display when he was introduced to the House of Lords yesterday under Lady Thatcher's watchful eye. Archer was supported by Lord Renton, former MP for Huntingdon, who first introduced Archer to John Major, and Lord "Bertie" Denham, the former chief whip in the Lords. Denham entered the Tory government in the same year as Lady Thatcher and went on to become the only one to outlast her on the front bench. After his induction the new Lord Archer had a brief word with Lady Thatcher before the consummate politician rushed next door to take his place in the seats reserved for peers to watch Major performing at prime minister's question time.

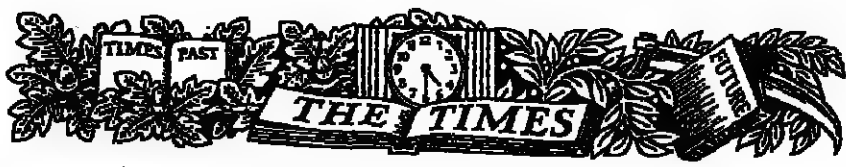
Peter Bottomley, Tory MP and husband of the health secretary joined Labour MPs in south London for a moment

"sleep-in" on Tuesday night to protest at the plight of London's homeless. Learning how the other half lives is indeed admirable. But it is a rare tramp who was ever photographed sitting on a Burberry raincoat.

Nick of time

NORMAN Willis was for once lost for words when he was confronted by an umbrella-wielding pensioner as he tried to raise cash for the miners at Paddington station yesterday. The TUC general secretary was about to go on air on an LBC radio phone-in show when the woman struck. Before he could speak to listeners via a public telephone on the concourse, he came under verbal attack from the woman, who complained he was hogging the telephone. Within moments, a transport policeman had intervened and slammed down the receiver. Willis was astonished. With the transport policeman still mauling, Willis rang the Mike Carlton show on LBC on his mobile telephone. As he came on air, Willis told listeners he was still being hounded by an over-enthusiastic policeman. "I've got a bit of a problem," he wailed. "He's standing here. Could you make it quick? I'm about to get arrested."





A TIME TO OPPOSE

John Smith could do more to exploit Mr Major's difficulties

The leader of the Labour Party returned yesterday to the attacking position that suits him best: the dispatch box. But for all the skill that John Smith brought to his new twice-weekly job of questioning the prime minister, he could not compete with the real opponents: all but one question from the Conservative side yesterday was a criticism of government policy. And by the end of the day Downing Street had pulled a march on the Opposition by suggesting that a new economic policy was on its way.

At last the government appear to be turning its attention away from the defeat of inflation, a battle that has already been won, and towards the promotion of recovery, a battle that needs desperately to be fought. The Chancellor's autumn statement will also announce that public-sector pay rises will be kept to 2 per cent.

These are the bones of a proper economic plan. Whether the flesh is there too will depend on the government's boldness in monetary policy. The only route to recovery is to cut interest rates dramatically.

Labour would find it difficult to oppose such a plan. Mr Smith is an honest man, and though he may be tempted to champion the cause of public-sector workers, he must know that his reputation for fiscal rectitude has to remain untarnished if his party is ever to be trusted again to run the economy.

But yesterday proved that Labour feels equally powerless to challenge the government over its other vulnerability, Europe. When Mr Major made his statement about the Birmingham summit, Mr Smith could not criticise the substance of it, only the style. Labour is now the party of Europe, so it cannot denounce the treaty of Maastricht for

allocating powers to Brussels that properly belong with national governments.

He did play Mr Major's words back to him in a different context. The summit had acknowledged that the Community was not meeting the wishes of its people, that there should be more informed public debate, more open government and more consultation. Mr Smith asked the prime minister to address that criticism within his own country: to listen to the wishes of the British people over the economy and to consult more over pit closures. He failed to add that the same practice could be used to good effect over Europe itself.

The Labour party will try to defeat the government today in the coal debate with a motion which many Tories could support. Robin Cook described it as a "broad bridge over which Tory MPs can walk". Such a bridge could also be built for the Maastricht, if only Labour were willing to construct it.

A Labour amendment calling for a referendum on Maastricht would almost certainly be carried with the help of Tory backbenchers. Ratification might proceed, but only with the proviso that the people of Britain too must assent to the treaty. From Labour's point of view, this would represent a humiliation for the government. It would also allow the consultation of which Mr Smith so approves.

Since the government's retreat over pit closures, Tory backbenchers have sensed blood. Yet the real Opposition is acting like a hound that has lost its appetite for the chase. Mr Smith's job is to embarrass the government at every opportunity. Parliament has assembled: let the hunt commence.

BANK THE BUSH DIVIDEND

The window for a Gatt deal could close on November 3

The third and final debate between America's presidential candidates has not transformed the race. Although on this occasion George Bush avoided glancing nervously at his watch, the president is so far behind in the polls that he had to do more than demonstrate survival.

Monday night's trial by television was not, however, without significance. The section of the Michigan debate concerning international trade ought to have sent signals throughout Western Europe's chancelleries.

The message that politicians outside America need urgently to take on board is this: that the US and Japan, in the view of the US Federal Reserve, are on the edge of the severest recession since 1945; that economic gloom is eroding European cooperation. In such a climate, failure to conclude the Gatt Uruguay Round of global trade talks could cripple the multilateral trading system on which half a century's prosperity has been based, and lead to a ruinous escalation of protectionism. Success, on the admittedly imperfect terms now on offer, is worth as much as \$200 billion a year in extra growth to the world, nearly a third of that to Europe. President Bush wants and needs a deal. If he loses on November 3, do not count on his successor.

Europeans who complain that Mr Bush's free trade rhetoric is not reflected in American policy must be careful. Those who cite Washington's use of retaliation threats to whip "unfairly" successful exporters such as Japan into line, should reflect that Mr Bush's rivals — and many American voters — are far more protectionist than he is. On Monday night, the president alone was prepared to defend the postwar record of internationally unimpeded free trade in creating jobs and growth.

Ross Perot flatly opposes Nafta, the free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada which Mr Bush signed in August. Bill Clinton gives half-hearted praise to the Nafta deal while hinting at legislation which

would gut the treaty. Mr Clinton could yet turn out to be the Herbert Hoover of the 1990s, raising trade barriers in the mistaken belief that tariff-free trade policies will save American jobs.

The Uruguay Round, and the Gatt system which obliges all nations to play by the same rules, have fewer friends than Nafta in the US. If a deal is reached before November 3, Mr Clinton is likely to think twice about incurring the blame for unravelling a package with obvious merits, which has taken 180 nations six years to conclude. But if he wins and talks are still dragging on, the concessions Mr Bush has offered the EC on the divisive issue of agricultural reforms may no longer be on the table.

Farm trade is the stumbling block. To encourage the EC towards a deal, Mr Bush has agreed to exempt from Gatt limits the direct payments it will make to farmers under the reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy. Even the European Commission, which handles these negotiations for the Twelve, now admits that any remaining disagreements are trivial. The political breakthrough could be made within a week, enabling Mr Bush to declare victory and leaving the lawyers to tidy up the final text by the year's end.

All that now stands in the way is France — or, more accurately, a million or so French grain farmers, who hold its government in thrall. France's position is indefensible and illogical: its economy stands to gain as much as any other from this ambitious blueprint for a global economic recovery led by greater trade. Delay will solve nothing: the nearer France gets to next spring's parliamentary elections, the more it will dig in its heels.

The Commission must shed its subservience to Paris, close the deal and present it to the Twelve for a vote. Under the Treaty of Rome, it could be endorsed by qualified majority. That majority exists. Yesterday, John Major talked about a Gatt deal in ten weeks. In the real world, he has two.

BIBLE LAUNCH

A toast to the king of quotations

Three books were launched in London yesterday. As is often the case, the best book made the smallest splash. The metaphor of launching a book as though it were a ship is a marketing innovation, and problematic. Most books are launched on a muddy puddle of hype, achieve their object of a few paragraphs in the gossip columns, and sink without trace. With ships, the launch is the start of their working life. With books, it is often the last that is heard of them.

For author's and publisher's vanity a launch is a way of celebrating the culmination of a long period of collaborative labour — some of the less rushed modern publications can represent as much as a whole year's work. But it has nothing to do with the merits of the book, and nothing is nastier than the average book launch.

Good books need no launch. They live by their words. Madonna's book called *Sex* is hardly a book at all, but 99 per cent hype and photographs of the sagging celebrity, some of which are doubtful, and others about which there can be no doubt at all. Accordingly, it had the most Helio-gabal launch, with sealed review copies delivered at midnight. Norman Schwarzkopf's *It Doesn't Take a Hero* was given a more sober launch, as suits the memoirs of a formidable war hero. The world will little note, nor long remember either book. Madonna's is literally unreadable.

The third book received the quietest

launch, and is unlikely to make much of a buzz in the gossip columns. But it needs no hype, because it is already part of the bedrock of the English language for many millions who have never heard the name of the author. He is the forgotten ghost in the English language.

William Tyndale was born five centuries ago, and his translation of the Bible was last published 450 years ago. But it was the first attempt to make available for everybody a translation of the Bible into the vulgar English that they all spoke. His language was so clear and arresting that the King James version kept 90 per cent Tyndale in the New Testament, and 80 per cent Tyndale in the Old Testament.

Phrases of Tyndale have become part of the common tongue, and occupy more space in dictionaries of quotations than anybody apart from Shakespeare. "The Lord is my shepherd", "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God", and hundreds of other tags have become familiar to races undreamed of when Tyndale translated from the Hebrew and the Greek into common English. It is fitting that his Bible should have been republished yesterday by Yale University Press, the nonconformist house of one of the great universities to which his word has spread. It is fitting also that it was done discreetly. With books such as Tyndale's, the word rules.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Repercussions of coal mine closures on energy policy and Britain's options

From the President of the Geological Society

Sir, Britain's exploitable coal reserves are finite. Premature abandonment of deep mines necessarily incurs a loss of associated reserves. Clearly, something must now be done to manage excessive pithead stock levels. Extreme caution must be exercised, however, wherever mines with significant reserves are considered for closure. Production from reserves where delay will not prejudice later recovery might be curtailed.

To all but the most casual observer it must be apparent that the present disastrous situation did not arise overnight. In the short term it may make sense to move to power generation from natural gas. In the medium term, however, it seems likely that a return to coal will be necessary. To embrace a future dependence on imported coal (or gas) of wholly unknown cost would not amount to sound stewardship if any alternative strategy were available.

Plans to switch some power generation from coal to gas are already in hand. If further management disasters are to be avoided it is essential that a single policy for energy (coal, gas, nuclear) is developed. The first step must be a comprehensive review of reserves, delivery issues, conversion technologies and associated costs. Only these data can justify (or otherwise) the wisdom of and necessity for further contraction of the coal industry.

Yours etc,
CHARLES CURTIS,
President, The Geological Society,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1,
October 20.

From Sir Charles Cawley

Sir, The human aspects of the proposed pit closures have been well recognised in the national debate. I should like to make a few comments from the technical point of view.

The decline in the demand for British coal is understood to be due to three factors: the support for nuclear power; the importation of cheaper coal; the use of natural gas for power generation.

I believe the support for nuclear power is fully justified by the need to develop a resource which will have an increasing contribution to make to the great and growing world demand for energy.

British coal is an important national resource which also has an essential part to play in the future. It is surely unwise to allow this resource to be endangered because imported coal is temporarily cheaper.

It is hard to see any technical justification for the use of gas to make electricity.

(a) The conversion cannot be regarded as a fuel-upgrading because gas is an ideal fuel in its own right — readily stored and distributed, and versatile in use.

(b) The use of gas to displace coal in the production of electricity runs counter to the needs of conservation since the reserves of coal must be at least ten times those of natural gas.

(c) Natural gas is a valuable chemical raw material, irreplaceable if reserves are depleted. If we have any concern for those who come after us, its use to displace coal for electricity production should be unthinkable.

Altogether our policy for coal, in contrast to that for nuclear power, appears to be short-sighted, selfish and scientifically ill-judged.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. CAWLEY
(Chief Scientist,
Ministry of Power, 1959-67),
8 Glen Gardens, Ferring,
Worthing, West Sussex.

From the Editor of *Mine & Quarry*

Sir, Michael Heseltine has been very clever — or at least I hope he has. By putting a partial moratorium on the planned pit closures, which he would probably have been forced to do anyway by the courts, he has bought

himself and the government time: time to reassess the situation and to recognise that market forces, if they are not marshalled by a strong policy, can turn common sense on its head.

He should now accept that our existing coal-fired power stations can produce electricity at a cost comparable at current fuel prices to the new combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) planned by the power generators. He should acknowledge that British reserves of coal will last several centuries, providing a stable supply at a stable price (in contrast to gas) and that in ten or even five years' time the regional electricity companies will be fighting for what is left of coal-produced energy.

With the time he has bought, Mr Heseltine could prove to be the miners' saviour. He has the opportunity not only to save the mining industry but also, by publicly intervening in the wranglings between the generators, the regional electricity companies and British Coal, to secure a long-term energy supply on which the nation's manufacturing industry can build.

Yours faithfully,
TIM FRYER,
Editor, *Mine & Quarry*,
184-6 High Street,
Tonbridge, Kent,
October 19.

From Mr John White

Sir, Professor Colin Robinson, in his article in *Business Comment* today, succinctly exposes the fallacy in the suggestion that simple market forces require the closing of some coal mines, and demonstrates that decisions of an earlier administration left British Coal at a contrived disadvantage in the market through the promotion of gas. However, his reference to heavily subsidised nuclear power plants can be amplified.

The Commons energy committee condemned the CEBG and the Department of Energy for "systematic bias" in favour of nuclear power and, in the aftermath of the Sizewell "B" enquiry and the Layfield report, the CEBG admitted that its figures had been wrong. Not surprisingly, the energy committee was "profoundly concerned" that the CEBG should have put forward a low cost figure for

nuclear power at a public enquiry and subsequently doubled it.

It is surely unfair to blame the present government for a perceived effect of the "market" without identifying those whose figures effectively tilted the balance against coal-fired generators.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITE,
625 Salisbury House,
London Wall, EC2,
October 19.

From Councillor Mrs Janet Todd

Sir, Like most Conservatives I am very concerned about the pit closures issue. I have been reading the Conservative campaign guide, 1991, on the coal industry. The initial paragraph, under the heading "Unequivocal Support", states:

The government's commitment to Britain's coal industry is clear-cut. It is demonstrated by the massive programme of investment which the government has made available for British Coal in order to assist its transformation into a modern competitive industry.

Since 1979 the government has invested £2 million every working day in the modernisation of Britain's coal industry. This massive commitment — £7 billion of investment and over £17 billion to grant in 12 years — is helping to make British Coal a fully commercial concern able to compete in the highly competitive international energy market.

In the 1992 update of the guide — a much shorter version — Mr John Wakeham, then energy secretary, is quoted as saying last February to miners in Nottingham:

If you continue to make the remarkable gain in productivity that you have made so far you can win a substantial share of the British market for coal. Then you will have earned and will deserve a secure long-term future for your great industry.

Yours faithfully,
JANET TODD,
Foxton Lodge, Foxton Close, Oxford.

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, No one hearing Michael Heseltine's statement to the Commons on Monday or his subsequent interviews could be in any doubt that it is his intention to close all 31 pits and to allow the regional electricity companies and power generators — rather

than the British people — to determine the energy policy of this country for generations to come.

Not only does the temporary reprieve provide time for the President of the Board of Trade to prepare his case more carefully and allow public indignation to subside; it also provides the opportunity to encourage voluntary redundancies to drain the life blood from those pits which await the sword of Damocles in early 1993.

The level of redundancy pay depends on the last 12 weeks worked. Given the uncertainty and consequent adjustments in output, this has profound implications for the pressure on miners to take voluntary redundancy now rather than compulsory redundancy later.

It is quite likely that when Mr Heseltine reports back, not on a comprehensive review of energy policy but on British coal contracts, the nation will be left with a wholly avoidable *fait accompli*.

Those Conservative members who have "changed their minds" since his speech have done a bigger disservice to mining communities and those dependent on the industry than members of Parliament who blatantly backed the closure plan in the first place.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons,
October 20.

From the Dean of St Albans

Sir, Mr Heseltine may have strained every muscle to reduce the damage to the coal industry, but he has not shown himself sensitive to the people who form the communities upon which society is founded.

The damage to family life and the growing queue of unemployed seem to be the fruit of the current lack of financial direction. As long as money is the only criterion we shall continue to pile up social and family problems well beyond our ability to help. Is this the society for which Mr Major has produced a citizen's charter?

Yours sincerely,
P. C. MOORE,
The Deanery,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
October 20.

From the Vicar of Llanasa

Sir, As someone who grew up in a coal-mining family and who has served for the past 16 years in a coal-mining community as a parish priest I am appalled by the government's ineptitude and callousness. Rarely can a British government have been so "successful" in uniting so many sections of society in a common and, I dare to say, just cause. I am obviously not alone in seeing the government's policy on pit closures as economically flawed, socially unacceptable and morally indefensible.

When our prime minister promised us a classless society he surely couldn't have expected it to show signs of emergence in such widespread opposition to his government's policies.

A bandwagon has been set in motion, albeit unintentionally, and his government will have to engage in a complete re-think on energy policy in order to join it — or face the consequences of being rejected and left for dead.

Yours sincerely,
GARETH GRIFFITHS,
The Vicarage, Llanasa Road,
Gronant, Nr Prestatyn, Clwyd,
October 20.

From Mr Cyril Sherwood

Sir, Is it not probable that future generations of children will learn with amazement that in the 1990s men were sent down deep pits to hack away, in dangerous and dirty conditions, to bring up a source of energy?

Yours faithfully,
C. SHERWOOD,
Arundel Lodge, 271 Swaleys Road,
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex,
October 19.

Whipping it up

From Mr Colin Haycraft

Sir, In his entertaining account ("Madonna whips up election apathy", October 17) of the orgies held in Greenwich Village to celebrate publication of Madonna's book *Sex*, paid for by her record company, Warner Brothers, Ben Macintyre notes the embarrassment of the Warner executives "who attended the bash dressed in priestly robes and looking somewhat uncomfortable". He comments: "It was the sort of book launch that Nero might have enjoyed."

Nero was certainly a keen performer; but a closer parallel might be drawn with the Emperor Elagabalus — whose multifaceted sex life outdid Nero's — during his enforced worship of the sacred stone of Emesa on the Palatine.

"Around the altar", writes Gibbon, "a chorus of Syrian damsels performed their lascivious dances to the sound of barbarian music whilst the gravest personages of state and the army, clothed in long Phoenician tunics" — the Warner executives of the day — "officiated in the meanest functions with affected zeal and secret indignation".

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HAYCRAFT (Chairman),
Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd,
48 Hoxton Square, N1.

Wordsworth threat

From Dr Charles Warren

Sir, Wordsworth's childhood home in Cockermouth, Cumbria, is under threat from a building scheme (letter, October 12) yet nobody in authority seems prepared to stop this piece of vandalism and desecration.

Would that we still had that other Lake District worthy, John Ruskin, with us to castigate the philistines as he once did in *Sesame and Lilies*:

You have despised nature; that is to say, all deep and sacred sensations of natural scenery. The French revolutionaries made stables of the cathedrals of France; you have made racetracks of the cathedrals of the earth... there is not a quiet valley in England that you have not filled with bellowing fire; there is no paradise of English land which you have not trampled coal dust into — not any foreign city in which the spread of your presence is not marked among its fair old streets and happy gardens by a consuming white leprosy of new hotels and perfume shops.

God bless the grand old prophet of the nineteenth century for trying to set us right, from his home at Brantwood, Coniston Water, in such truly important conservation matters.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. M. WARREN
(Trustee, The Wordsworth Trust,
Dove Cottage), Bing's Hall,
Chelmsford Road, Felsted, Essex.

Business letters, page 27

Future of Radio 4

From Lady Denman

Sir, Other than media people (like Janet Daley, "Radio 4 needs change", October 13), just who is telling the BBC we need more news? They already provide 2,500 hours in the year, according to reliable estimates, including a fair proportion of the insular, trivial and repetitive. Better news would help, certainly, but that is the domain of politicians, not journalists.

On current form, a "rolling news" service would be a sure recipe for neurotic, short-sighted, narrow-minded despair.

If I was deviously gifted and otherwise unoccupied, I would juggle the programmes. I know how to use the on-off switch. But you can let a favourite radio station run. Radio 4 is guide, philosopher and friend to innumerable listeners; an ageing population and increasing unemployment guarantee demand for an easily accessible, quality, magazine-style service. Numbers of listener-hours have higher value long-term than figures for transient listeners.

Radio 4 long-wave is also about cross-channel cultural communication. It is sandwiched between strongly broadcast, roughly similar French and German language programmes. Fair competition. What makes the BBC think their new formula will be superior?

Yours faithfully,
MOYA DENMAN,
194b Avenue de Tervuren,
Bte. 15, B-1150 Brussels.

Too many cars?

From Mr A. Newton Husbands

Sir, Mr Harley Sherlock (letter, October 13) is right in stating that we must learn to become less dependent on the motor-car especially as with thousands of new cars coming on to the roads every week congestion and pollution can only get worse.

There are hints that taxation may have to be increased and, taking the case of your newspaper which now costs some 40 times more than it did 50 years ago, it could be argued that

petrol should cost nearly £4 per gallon.

As far as cars are concerned it is difficult to believe that we are suffering from a severe recession.

Yours very truly,
A. NEWTON HUSBANDS,
The Mews, 565 Burton Road,
Littleover, Derbyshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

PETRA KELLY



Petra Kelly, one of the three founding chairmen of Die Grünen — the German Green Party — and a former member of the Bundestag, was found shot dead on October 12, with her 69-year-old companion, the former Bundeswehr general Gert Bastian, in the Bonn apartment they shared. She was 44. She was born in Günzburg, Bavaria, on November 29, 1947.

ALONE among the founders and main personalities of the German Green party, Petra Kelly was its big international star, and a woman of immense and charismatic appeal. She first burst on the scene in her early thirties — handsome but frail-looking, vivacious and highly-strung, with an urgent style of oratory and the air of a martyr who bears the whole world's burdens. Many compared her to Joan of Arc and even to dispassionate observers her earnestness and wit-like intensity made the notion seem not totally absurd.

She cut an uneasy figure within the Greens' ranks: she was infuriated by their bickering and poor discipline, while they in turn resented her stardom and tried to elbow her to the sidelines. She fought for ecological causes, but above all against nuclear weapons, tirelessly. She was brought up in the American civil rights movement where her idol was Martin Luther King, with whom she shared a spiritual element but she added her own touch of emotional German romanticism. She won wide sympathy even from many Germans who found her ideas doty or dangerous.

The Greens' breakthrough into the Bundestag in 1983 owed much to her charismatic nature and the manner in which she could thrust ecological concerns to the front of people's minds, even in a prosperous society like that of the Bundesrepublik. Today, though the party's parliamentary representation was totally wiped out in the last German elections, she — and it — can claim the major role in creating of a highly industrialised society the most environmentally conscious of the world's developed states. The lasting effect of her efforts is reflected in practical measures which affect German commercial, social and domestic life at all levels and which have thrust Umweltschutz (conservation) to the forefront of national consciousness.

She was born Petra Karin Lehmann, the daughter of a left-wing journalist and a country girl. She went to a convent school and had thoughts of becoming a Dominican nun. After her parents' divorce, Petra, then aged 13, moved to America with her mother who had remarried an Irish-American officer named Kelly. In Washington she took a degree in political science, worked for two years in Hubert Humphrey's office and joined political

demonstrations — notably against the Vietnam war. Key influences were Joan Baez and Martin Luther King, whose principles of non-violent resistance became her guidelines. Later she worked in Brussels with the EEC Commission, which nurtured her love of bureaucracy.

Kelly was attracted into the West German Social Democrat Party by Willy Brandt's idealism, but later left in disgust at the hard pragmatism of his successors. Then in 1979 she co-founded Die Grünen, which provided the perfect outlet for her passionate, crusading nature. During these years she went on demos and sit-ins everywhere, including Berlin, the Nato HQ, Frankfurt Airport. She was often accompanied by her aged grandmother, and they made an eye-catching pair.

The Greens brought a new dimension to German politics. "We are the anti-party party," said Kelly, "we are opposed to the cold German sense of order." In the 1983 elections the

Greens made their first breakthrough into the Bundestag, winning 28 seats but Kelly took her place there with mixed feelings, for she was not convinced of the value of parliamentary action. But she got sucked into politics and became a media idol, being featured on the covers of both Stern and Der Spiegel. This angered many other leading Greens, who stressed that the party was a team of equals, utterly opposed to all personality cult.

In 1983-4 they voted her off the party executive and the front bench, and tried to apply against her the Greens' "rotation" system, whereby any elected person must stand down after two years. Kelly argued that this system was wasteful and inefficient, for to gain valid political experience took time. Finally she persuaded the party to let her be an exception; then in the 1987 federal elections she was re-elected to the Bundestag with a new popular mandate. Though still dedicated to Green

ideals, Kelly grew disillusioned with a rag-bag of a party that she found "chaotic and amateurish". Her feelings were shared by her intimate consort ex-Major-General Gert Bastian, a former tank commander who, under her influence, had joined the Greens after being forcibly retired from the Bundeswehr in 1980 for speaking out against Nato's deployment of a new generation of US nuclear missiles, Pershing II and Cruise, in Europe.

But in 1984 Bastian resigned, partly because he judged that the Green peace campaigners were being far too biased in seeing Reagan alone as the villain and refusing to accept that Moscow was also to blame for the Cold War. Kelly agreed with him. No friend of communism, she was once deported from East Berlin for trying to demonstrate against the nuclear arms policies of West and East.

In a party deeply split between "Realos" and "Fundis" (the former believed that the Greens had no choice but to enter party politics and aim for a share of power; the latter argued that such compromises would be fatally corrupting), Kelly stood in the middle. She shared the Fundis' fears that to work within a "bourgeois" parliamentary system could alienate the Greens from their principles, and she opposed the view of the Realo leader Otto Schily that the party, where possible in Bonn or the Länder, should try to enter "Red/Green" ruling coalitions with the SPD. In the event, the party's failure to clear the five percent hurdle for parliamentary representation in the first all-German elections, in 1990, made the question academic and Die Grünen ceased to be a parliamentary force (retaining representation, however, in the parliaments of four of the Länder, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Hesse and Brandenburg); nevertheless their influence on the wider world stage is incalculable.

Petra Kelly herself always scorned the wider excesses of some purist Green fanatics, and she hated the materialistic Marxist faction within the Fundis: she was always a spiritual person, a disciple of Gandhi as well as of King, and her childhood vocation for the nunnery never quite left her. She campaigned incessantly for Turkish workers, homosexuals and other minorities, for feminist causes, and against pollution and nuclear energy.

She would sleep only four hours a night, and the intensity of her life took its toll, bringing her often to the edge of nervous collapse. She spoke very fast non-stop with a manic urgency; yet she had a wonderful sweetness and naturalness of manner and was never spoilt by fame. Even those who opposed her views often grew to feel warm affection. One letter from President Reagan's ambassador in Bonn read, "My dear Petra... Do make care of your health... Your good friend, Arthur Burns."

DR MAGNUS PYKE

Dr Magnus Pyke, scientist and television communicator, died on October 19 aged 83. He was born on December 29, 1908.

FEW people who ever saw Magnus Pyke performing on television will forget his gift for vivid expression, his utter lack of self-consciousness and his ability to play the mad scientist, apparently with great fervour and enjoyment. But some viewers may have been misled by his gimmicky into failing to notice that he had a serious purpose, great integrity and much humanity.

Although he was wont to use such a broad brush in speech and writing that he could sometimes err in points of detail, his main themes were sound and the scientific views he expounded with such apparent ease and with such consummate skill were essentially correct.

Pyke was born in London and educated at St Paul's School. He found that his good memory helped him to do well at examinations, win prizes and sufficient scholarships to pay his school fees.

His father died when he was 15 and still at school. Four years later he sailed for Montreal, where he studied agriculture at Macdonald College, McGill University. He obtained his BSc in agriculture in 1933. He became chief chemist in the research laboratories of Benax in Hammer-smith, London, in 1934, a job he held until 1941, though during those years he was able to do research on vitamins with Professor (later Sir) J. C. Drummond at University College, London, and to obtain his PhD in biochemistry in 1936.

In 1941 he joined Drummond who was by that time scientific adviser at the wartime Ministry of Food. In the ministry Pyke was very active, particularly in studying the nutritional effects of wartime food restrictions. He became involved in a practical way in wartime industrial and hospital feeding and surveyed the nutritional value of meals served in such establishments.

This work led him to prepare a series of simple lectures on nutrition for practical caterers, and these lectures were later published as the Ministry of Food's *Manual of Nutrition*, which proved an instant success as an educational tool.

Indeed, it became a Whitehall best-seller. The first edition of the *Manual* was published in 1945, the second in 1947 and so on to the eighth edition in 1970, the later editions being prepared by Pyke's successors at the Ministry.

He left the Ministry temporarily in 1945 to become nutritional adviser to the Allied Commission for Austria (British element) in Vienna. He returned in 1946 for two years, during which he concerned himself particularly with the nutritional value of diets available at that time for prisoners, invalids, the aged and infirm, and students. He also took an active interest in nutrition education.

Early in 1949 Pyke joined

anything like the magic qualities claimed. He was applauded for quoting the couplet:

The goat that reeks on yonder hill
Has browsed all day on chlorophyll.

Much later he achieved popular acclaim through his regular appearances for seven years in the mid-1970s on the TV science series *Don't Ask Me and Don't Just Sit There*. Fame brought its rewards: an appearance as the subject of *This is Your Life*, invitations to participate on radio in *Any Questions* and *Desert Island Discs* and in many other radio and television programmes and to lecture throughout the world.

He was awarded the Pye Colour Television Award as the most promising newcomer to television in 1975 and was also selected by the young people watching the BBC television programme *Multi-Coloured Swap Shop* for the star award for 1977-78 in the category of expert.

His prowess on television and radio was not understood by some of his scientific friends and the manner of his performances always placed him at risk of not being taken seriously. Pyke himself, however, was very serious indeed about the need for scientific communication and the responsibility that experienced scientists have of learning how to communicate their knowledge to non-scientists. Early in his career at the British Association he arranged for the preparation by a small committee of a useful and penetrating study on *Science and the Media*.

Pyke not only broadcast and lectured prolifically; he also wrote. He started with a novel *Go West, Young Man*, *Go West*, written while he was a student in Canada, and he proceeded after the *Manual of Nutrition* to write popular scientific books, mainly about food and nutrition, at the rate of nearly one a year from 1950 onwards.

In 1937 he married Dorothy Mina Vaughan, an accountant whom he had met through an early common interest in sailing on the Thames at Hammersmith and through a joint friendship with A. P. Herbert. She predeceased him and he is survived by one son and one daughter.



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How businessmen are failing to exploit the slump

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Oxford Dictionary of Quotations gets a facelift

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Can Rangers halt the advance of Leeds?

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THE TIMES 2

No. 64,469

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21 1992

45p

BUSINESS TODAY

YOUNG TIGERS



British industry should heed the rapid economic changes taking place in Singapore and the rest of the Far East or risk falling further behind
Page 27

SIGN OF TIMES

Hammerson, Britain's third biggest property group, says the final dividend may be cut because of market conditions
Page 25

COAL CASH



Costain Group is selling its coal interests in Australia to Hanson, wiping out debts of £176 million, but has to service other debts
Page 25

RIGHT CUTS



Cost-cutting has paid off at Wolsley Group, led by Jeremy Lancaster, where annual pre-tax profits rose to £91.3 million
Page 24

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6157 (-0.0130)
German mark 2.4534 (+0.0340)
Exchange index 80.2 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1912.9 (+45.7)
FT-SE 100 2617.0 (+54.8)
New York Dow Jones 3197.64 (+9.19)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16967.66 (+83.85)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%
3-month interbank: 7 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 7 1/2%
JS: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.03-3.01%
30-year bonds: 5 1/2-5 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$ 1.6157
DM/£ 2.4534
FF/£ 16.6633
Yen/£ 166.08
Index: 80.2
ECU: 1.936361
ECU1: 248.469
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: 384.50
New York: 384.50
Gold: 384.50
Silver: 211.75-212.75
New York: 384.50
Copper: 343.55-344.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$20.75/bbl (\$20.80)

RETAIL PRICES

IPI: 139.4 September (1987=100)
 Denotes midday trading price

Bundesbank fuels stock market optimism

Hopes of rates cut in Germany boosts sterling

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE pound staged a dramatic comeback, despite revived money market hopes of a further cut in base rates, as the Bundesbank fuelled international expectations that German interest rates are definitely on the way down.

The stock market was caught up by the optimism, brushing aside money supply figures, which showed alarming weakness in bank and building society lending in September. The FT-SE 100 closed 54.8 higher at 2,617.0.

The £700 million fall in lending last month, seen as a sign of deepening recession, reinforced market conviction that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would cut interest rates again soon, though the full point cut to 8 per cent last Friday had been considered too political. The key three-month interbank rate ended at 7 1/4 per cent.

Sterling, whose weakness prompted alarm on Monday,

Germany may cut interest rates, the pound rises. So do shares on hopes of a British cut

yesterday powered ahead against the weakening mark. At the official 4pm close, it stood at DM2.4534, up almost three and half pence from Monday. It later climbed to about DM2.4675.

The pound stayed abreast of the rising dollar for most of the day, but eased back to close about a cent and quarter lower at \$1.6157. Sterling's trade-weighted index recovered 0.7 of a point to 80.2.

Initially, a report in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* triggered market optimism about falling interest rates. Further signs of Japanese weakness overnight also raised hopes that Japan will be forced to cut its discount rate

by year end. The Bundesbank later said it would today accept variable tenders on securities repurchase agreements, or repos. The switch from the fixed rate system is expected to push the repo rate from 8.9 per cent to possibly as low as 8.7 per cent. This raised hopes that the lombard and discount rates would be allowed to follow.

With further American interest rate cuts unlikely for some time, and Wall Street looking forward to a fiscal boost if Bill Clinton, the Democrat contender, makes it to the White House, the dollar gained more than four pence to DM1.52 in Europe, its strongest since June.

The Bundesbank said the return to its more usual practice of offering variable rate repos, after firmly steering the markets with fixed rates in recent weeks, was intended to testing market equilibrium. The German central bank has deliberately focused attention on call money rates in recent weeks in an attempt to draw attention away from its key official rates, which many economists expect to be left unchanged until December, despite mounting fears of recession in Germany.

The German call money rate fell to between 8.85 and 8.95 per cent, down from 8.95 per cent on Monday. The variable rate tender allows the banks to establish the market rate above a certain floor.

The Bundesbank's announcement forced the mark down, thereby taking further pressure off the weaker currencies in the exchange-rate mechanism. The Bonn finance ministry welcomed the move as likely to foster greater calm in the financial markets and boost economic activity. Frankfurt economists said the Bundesbank was reacting to a worsening domestic economy.

The last cut in the Bundesbank's key lending rates came on September 14, when it pared a quarter point off the lombard rate to 9.50 and a half point off the discount rate to 8.25 per cent.

Meanwhile, Bank of England figures yesterday indicated that other central banks used more than £8 billion in the vain attempt to defend the pound last month. Britain used about £4.5 billion.

Market report, page 26

Fall in lending is first on record

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SEPTEMBER saw the first monthly fall on record in lending to companies and individuals, according to the latest Bank of England figures, which reinforced the City view that the economy has taken a fresh downward lurch.

Amid last month's currency market turmoil, a sharp deterioration in confidence was reflected in a provisional £700 million drop in lending to the private sector, the first repayment since the data were introduced in July 1981. In August, lending was up £2.3 billion. Economists were appalled by the economic weakness indicated in the data.

Annual growth for M4, the broad measure of money supply, slowed from a seasonally adjusted 5.5 per cent in August, to 5.1 per cent last month, matching the low recorded in May. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, cited the slowdown in M4 when spelling out his grounds for cutting base rate by a full point to 8 per cent last Friday. The markets were convinced an

early cut was justified, but the timing came as a surprise and was widely seen as a sign of political panic.

No official target has been set for M4, although it is an indicator the Treasury is monitoring under the inflation-targeting policy that has replaced the ERM discipline. The officially targeted narrow money measure, M0, a guide to consumer confidence, rose by a seasonally adjusted 2.1 per cent in the year to September, after a 2.4 per cent rise in August. The weakness of consumer demand is expected to be underlined by today's retail sales data, which are forecast to show a 0.3 per cent fall in September.

Separate figures from the British Bankers Association showed an underlying fall of close to £1 billion in seasonally adjusted lending to the private sector, the first fall for six months. There was an underlying fall of £454 million in lending to manufacturers, while personal consumption lending rose £208 million.

Nomura cuts 50 London jobs

By DEBRA ISAAC

NOMURA International, the London securities arm of the Japanese investment bank, has cut back on UK research and European equities with the loss of 50 jobs.

It is pulling out of building, financials, insurance, chemicals and utilities research, and has quit market-making in European shares. Its European operation is cut by about a third, leaving 60 people in its European equity division.

"We could not make money on the areas of research we have withdrawn from," a spokesman said. He said Nomura was concentrating on profitable areas and still believed it had the "critical mass" to be a leading European research house.

Koichi Kane, chairman of Nomura International, said: "We have had to take some very hard decisions, but our priority must be to ensure that

Nomura is able to maximise its potential when the current downturn in global markets comes to an end.

"Our commitment to the European market remains as strong as ever, but our focus must continue to be on providing excellent service in those areas where we have the greatest strength and potential for growth," he added.

Diary, page 27

Boarding party drops the pilot on Trafalgar Day

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Sir Nigel life president

SIR Nigel Brookes is expected today to step down as chairman of Trafalgar House, the construction and engineering group he founded 36 years ago. He will become the life president of the company, but is not expected to keep a seat on the board. But announcement of his departure was stalled yesterday as talks continued between Trafalgar and Hongkong Land, its 15 per cent shareholder, over board representation.

Trafalgar has offered Hongkong Land only one non-executive directorship, but Hongkong Land is continuing to insist that both Sir Charles Powell and Rodney Leach, two of its directors, should be allowed on the board. Hongkong Land's directors met Alan Clements, Trafalgar's

next chairman, and Allan Gormly, the forthcoming chief executive, yesterday afternoon to try to settle the differences. Hongkong Land also wants Trafalgar to make a clear statement about the group's future strategy. In return, it will agree to be a passive, long-term investor.

Sir Nigel's expected departure is the most significant feature of a wide-ranging management reshuffle at Trafalgar. The group plans to announce the details today providing it completes talks with Hongkong Land, whose acquisition of 15 per cent last month prompted the changes. Sir Eric Parker will step down as chief executive immediately, and has already passed on most of his duties to Mr Gormly. He will continue as deputy chairman until his 60th birthday next June.

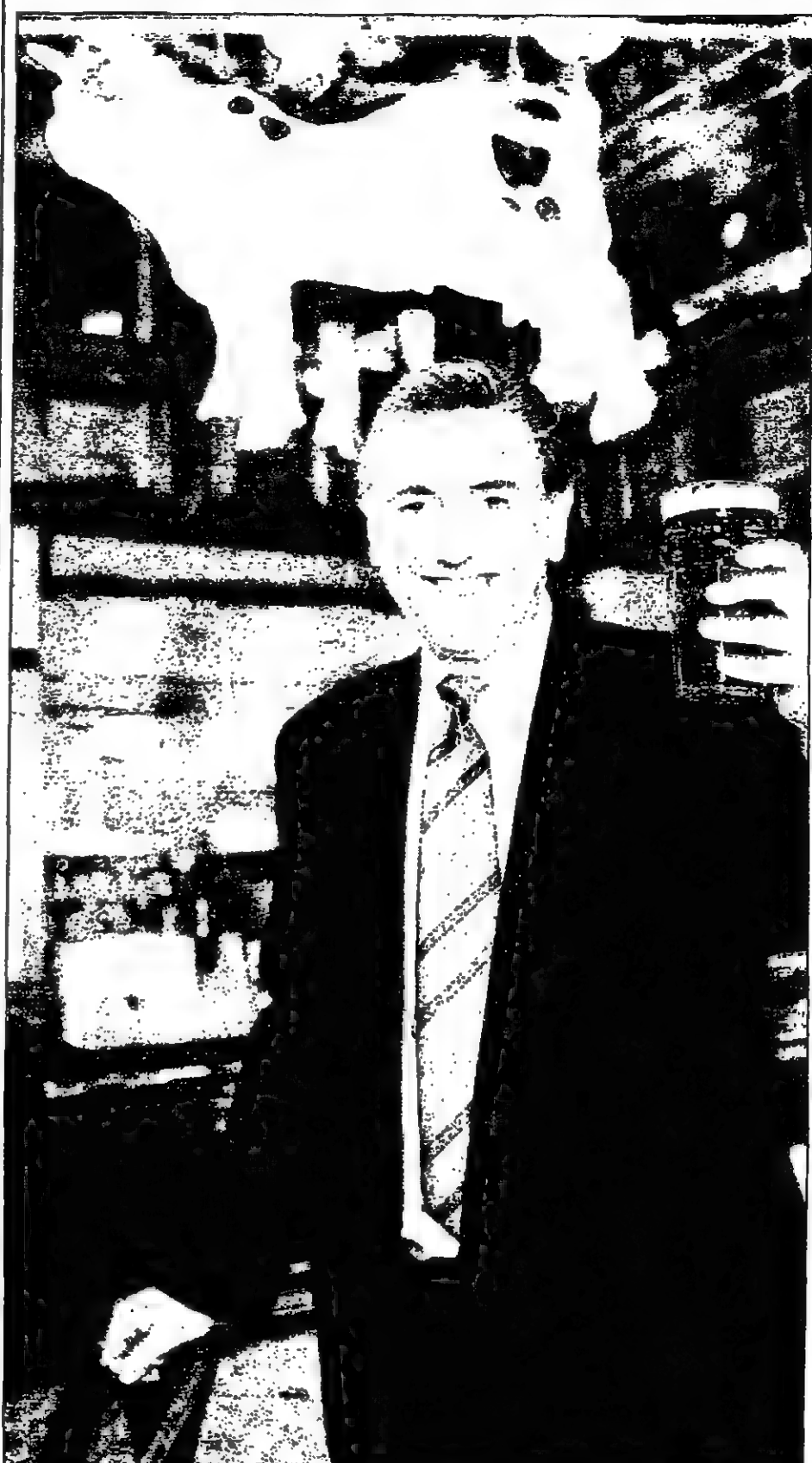
Mr Clements, a former ICI finance director, is five years older than Sir Nigel,

but will hold the post of chairman while a permanent replacement is sought.

Sir Nigel's departure is an ignominious final chapter to his career. He built Trafalgar from a modest investment company in the 1950s by acquiring many of the biggest names in Britain. Today its assets include The Ritz, Cunard, Ideal Homes and Truller & Co. Until recently, its acquisitions seemed inspired. It paid just £2.7 million for the Ritz in 1975—worth up to £150 million in 1990 before the recession. The turnaround Sir Nigel and Sir Eric brought about at John Brown, the engineer bought in 1986, was equally dramatic. If Trafalgar and Hongkong Land settle their differences today and the changes are announced, Sir Nigel will suffer a final quirk of fate. Today is Trafalgar Day, the celebration of Britain's most glorious naval victory.

Greenalls seeks £86m for growth

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR



Bargain hunting: Andrew Thomas wants to buy quality assets cheaply in recession

ANDREW Thomas, who was promoted to chairman and managing director of Greenalls Group three weeks ago, has launched an £86 million rights issue to fund a heavy expansion programme. Greenalls expects to pick up quality assets at cheap prices in the recession, particularly public houses, inns and hotels, and is moving to buy the necessary financial firepower. Mr Thomas said the acquisition programme had had to be reined in at times during the summer because of mounting debts.

Greenalls is issuing one new share at 29.5p for every five in issue. The shares reacted with an 18p fall to 34.1p yesterday. The company is buttressing its case with a pre-tax profits estimate of at least £63 million, including a property surplus of £6 million, for the year to September 25, against £64.1 million, including £10.1 million from property, the previous year.

A final dividend of 6.93p, also payable on the rights issue shares, would make a total up from 11p to 11.77p.

The money from the rights issue will reduce borrowings from £209 million to a more comfortable £123 million and reduce gearing from 27.5 per cent to 14.5 per cent.

Mr Thomas said further expansion was likely to come from small individual deals rather than one big acquisition.

Greenalls has spent £86 million already this year, including £20 million on expanding its off-licences business, £10 million on a single hotel and golf club and another £10 million on a clutch of public houses from Allied-Lyons.

The company also plans £30 million to £35 million of sales over the next two years as it cleans out the underperforming parts of its public houses and hotels businesses.

The Greenalls family, which handed over the reins of power when all shareholders were given full votes earlier this year, are not taking up all their rights. As a result, the family holding will fall from more than 16 per cent to 13.5 per cent.

Tempos, page 24

Bank cleared in BCCI bribery allegations

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Serious Fraud Office has cleared Bank of England officials of allegations of bribery over a fraud cover-up at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The SFO and the City of London Police last night said their investigation, which began in June, had been concluded. "The enquiry... revealed no evidence which could substantiate any of the claims made," they said.

The Bank asked the SFO to investigate after complaints that its officials had accepted briefcases full of cash from BCCI executives. The allegations were made by an accountant involved in the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

The claims, and the investigation, were revealed by Brian Sedgemore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shore, in an early day motion last month. This said a witness

to Lord Justice Bingham's enquiry into BCCI had reported seeing Bank of England officials accept briefcases full of hundred dollar notes from BCCI executives on three occasions. The witness, said the motion, accused three unnamed officials of "palming-off operations".

The Bank had held an internal inquiry into the claims and found nothing to substantiate them. A Bank spokesman said: "We are grateful to the SFO and the City of London Police for undertaking this investigation. While we expected no other outcome we welcome this formal clearance of the reputation and integrity of our officials."

Tomorrow's Bingham report is expected to criticise the Bank for not taking early action against BCCI.

Comment, page 27

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Waiting for Greenalls growth after rights

THE market had been braced for a rights issue from Greenalls Group ever since the company scrapped its two-tier share structure and went all-out for growth earlier this year. The main surprise is that the £86 million that Greenalls is raising has already been spent.

Greenalls is understandably cautious about saying just how much it now has in its coffers, given that a number of deals are probably at a sensitive stage. The official line is that the company has been buying cheap assets at the bottom of the economic cycle, and the last acquisition, of a golf hotel and club bought from the receivers, confirms this.

The only caveat must be the difficulty in setting a fair value on any assets bought in a recession.

Greenalls' four- and five-star hotels are suffering. Room occupancy levels have recovered, but only at the cost of heavy discounting this summer that has seen rates diving in head-on competition with the big grocers, is making a slender return on the money spent in building it up.

Most of the expansion will probably go into public houses and catering inns, where there are undeniably bargains available although not Greenalls' core. Organic growth is an expensive business - upgrading public houses accounted for £30 million out of last year's £86 million spending.

Greenalls shares fell 18p to 341p yesterday, against an issue price of 295p and a theoretical ex-rights price.

based on the previous night's close of 348p. The market's caution is hardly surprising given that this is the first decent-sized rights since a clutch that went sour earlier this year. Philip Morris, brewing analyst at Warburg Securities, has the shares on at least 12.3 times earnings for 1993, below the sector average.

The rights should be taken up, but a significant advance for the shares will have to await further signs of progress from the company.

Wolseley

IF the quality of companies and their management is best judged by how they perform in a recession, then please stand up Wolseley, the building distribution group.

Wolseley, led by Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, has long ago implemented aggressive cost cutting measures, as soon as the recession began to loom.

The action, coupled with its astute timing in buying Brossette, France's largest plumbing supplier, in February (a business that has already made an initial £7.9 million profit contribution) thus helped pre-tax profits in the year to end-July to rise from £80.3 million to £91.3 million.

Standing out from the crowd, Wolseley's final dividend goes up from 9p to 9.45p a share, making 12.55p a share (12.1p for the year).

The "shock" of seeing 1992 pre-tax profits at £91.3 million, when analysts had been standing by for about £70 million, and their acceptance



A cut in time: Jeremy Lancaster, head of Wolseley, saw recession coming

that the profits advance was not done by mirrors, saw the shares jump 60p to 410p.

If Wolseley can come through the first of what looks like being one of many patches of depressed conditions, its bottom line will truly shine when brighter economic conditions return and volumes improve.

The group does not hold out much hope for an early economic recovery at home, but

there is some light in America. Brossette has only just started to get into its stride, and 1993 profit forecasts range between £98 million, or 26.8p a share, up to £105 million, or 28.9p a share. For 1994, pre-tax profits could reach £125 million.

The prospective ratings of 15.3 and 11.9, based on 1993 and 1994 profit hopes, might suggest the shares are already up with events. But in uncer-

tain times, quality does not come cheap.

McKechnie

MCKECHNIE's decision to move out of metals last year after the sale of its United Kingdom metals businesses seems all the wiser with the passing of time. Apart from its strategic benefits, the disposal generated about £53 million, which helped to elim-

SmithKline Beecham pays second interim

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceutical group, posted a third-quarter pre-tax profit rise of 9 per cent to £272 million. Pharmaceutical sales rose 21 per cent, or 24 per cent when foreign exchange fluctuations were taken into consideration, bringing in £709 million for the quarter.

Trading profits for pharmaceuticals rose an underlying 16 per cent. For the first nine months of 1992, sales for the division were up 15 per cent and trading profits rose 13 per cent. There is a second interim dividend of 2.075p, payable from earnings of 6.8p a share, up from 6p. The company showed strong growth in its new anti-depressant Serenax, also known as Paxil in America where it awaits final regulator approval. In Britain, where it has been available since February 1991, it had 23.7 per cent of the market and in The Netherlands it held 10.5 per cent of the market in August.

Trust lifts asset value

EDINBURGH Investment Trust, with 66 per cent of its portfolio in British equities, raised its net asset value by 0.1 per cent from 254.9p in the half year to end-September. This compares with a rise of 2.9 per cent in the London stock market between April and September, 0.1 per cent in America, 1.1 per cent in Japan, and falls of 4 per cent in the Far East and 3.1 per cent on the Continent. There is an unchanged interim dividend of 2.85p, payable from earnings of 4.57p (4.69p).

Advance at Ex-Lands

EX-LANDS, the leisure-related property group, said net assets rose from 39.1p a share to 44.8p in the year to end-June, which included cash resources of £10.2 million, or 14.7p a share. Pre-tax profits were £65,000, against losses of £8,000, with earnings of 0.10p a share, up from 0.06p. There is again no dividend. Operations expanded significantly and the group now manages six projects across Europe with Mark McCormack's International Management Group.

McDonnell jobs threat

FURTHER job cuts are expected at McDonnell Douglas after the aircraft maker confirmed it would halve production of the wide bodied MD-11 over the next two years. Now being challenged by Airbus Industries as the world's second-largest plane maker, McDonnell has been losing market share for its £100 million jets. Production is to be cut from 44 to 37 next year and to about 25 by 1994. An estimated 8,000 people are employed on the MD-11.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Costain seals £176m coal mine deal with Hanson

Costain Group has sold its Australian coal mining business to Hanson for £176 million, halving its net debt and giving a much-needed boost to its battered balance sheet. But the respite may be short-lived.

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

COSTAIN Group, the debt-ridden construction business, has finally reached agreement to sell its Australian coal operation to Hanson. The move wipes £176 million off borrowings.

But the group, whose bankers need to approve the deal, is left with a significantly reduced earnings base and a battle to service remaining debts of £168 million.

Peabody Resources (UK), a Hanson subsidiary, is paying £123 million and taking on borrowings within the business of £53 million.

Costain said in June that the Australian mining assets would be floated on the country's stock exchange, but the group also encouraged approaches by interested purchasers. Peter Sawdy, Costain

chairman, said the value to the group of the Hanson deal that emerged was "significantly greater" than would have been achieved through a flotation.

The sale will include all the coal-mining operations in New South Wales, but Costain is retaining its Australian commercial property activities, mainly a development in Melbourne. Commercial property is no longer regarded as a core business, and Costain will progressively withdraw as the market allows. The properties in Australia have been written down by £10 million to £27 million.

The deal with Hanson needs the blessing of shareholders and holders of preference shares, the Australian authorities and some of the group's bankers. Mr Sawdy said Costain was in talks with some of its banks "as part of a review of its ongoing facilities".

The banks need to draw up a working capital statement for the shareholders confirming the company has sufficient resources to continue. The Australian coal mines contributed £20 million pre-tax to the group in the year to end-June and £24 million at the operating level, out of total operating profits that year of £27 million. Costain's other activities, including British construction and house-building, are deep in recession, and the group reported pre-tax profits of just £2.5 million in the first half of the financial year, which ran to the end of June.

The sale, however, leaves debts of £168 million once all liabilities and off-balance-sheet borrowings are taken into account, although much of this is in America at low interest rates.

Peter Costain, the chief executive, said the group had an American mining business and an engineering and construction arm that were profitable at the operating level, while the commercial property side was showing "considerable improvement" this year against 1991, when the group as a whole lost £69.2 million pre-tax. Further disposals are planned to cut borrowings.

Smith Corona, Hanson's troubled American word processing business, sank \$5 million into the red in July, August and September on a near 7 per cent slide in sales to \$81 million. Smith made \$4 million in the same months last year.

The Anglo-American group blames worldwide weakness in consumer spending. Hanson plans to axe half the 1,245 workforce and move production from New York state to Mexico.

Marine Midland recovers

MARINE Midland, the American arm of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, is continuing to recover from the heavy losses it suffered in the last two years. The bank made \$29.9 million in the third quarter, compared with a loss of \$56.9 million in the same period in 1991.

The result brings Marine's total profits for the first nine months of the year to \$73.5 million, up from a loss of \$166 million last time.

The improvement was caused by a 46 per cent fall in bad debt provisions to \$52.3 million from a year ago, and an 11 per cent drop in operating costs to \$172 million.

John Bond, Marine's president, said the bank was making solid progress and was continuing to focus on credit quality and productivity.

Shares halted

Shares in Wentworth International Group, the packing and carton manufacturers, were suspended at 3p as it revealed that publication of accounts for the year ended March 31 would be further delayed, pending completion of an investigation into the company's affairs. A date for publication is expected to be announced at the end of November.

Bigger payout

Essex Furniture, the manufacturer and retailer of upholstered furniture, has raised its final dividend from 1.25p a share to 1.5p, making 2.75p (2.25p) for the year. In the year to end-June, pre-tax profits rose from £497,000 to £727,000. Earnings rose from 3.25p a share to 5.03p. Turnover increased from £4.69 million to £7.15 million.

Profits dipped

A sharp increase in tax and the state's share of profits dipped net profits of Randfontein Estates, the gold mining company in South Africa's JCI group, from R55.3 million earned in the second-quarter of 1992 to R47.4 million in the three months ended September 30.

Going for gold

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Anglo-American, South Africa's largest mining group, yesterday triggered the first blast at the new R1.7 billion Moab gold mine in the north western Free State. It is expected to produce 13 tons of gold annually when it reaches full production in 2004.



Gloomy view: John Parry with a model of Senator House, Queen Victoria Street, London, one of Hammerson's completed office projects

Hammerson warns of payout cut

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HAMMERSON Property Investment and Development Corporation, Britain's third-biggest property group, has warned shareholders that depressed market conditions could well see this year's final dividend cut from 17p to 6.5p a share, making a reduced 10p (20.5p) a share for the year.

Sydney Mason, the chairman, and John Parry, the managing director, say conditions in the property markets of Britain and North America are the worst in their memory. "Your directors continue to be concerned by the rising cost of inducements necessary to secure office tenants, particularly in North America," Mr Mason told shareholders.

Hammerson's pre-tax profit for the six months ended June 30 was £23.3 million against £31.2 million last time, and the interim dividend has been held at 3.5p a share.

Net rental income was £61.4 million (£58.8 million), and net earnings turned out at 10.8p (12.9p) a share.

Interest of £8.5 million was capitalised in the first half of 1992, compared with £19.4 million capitalised in the first half of 1991. The group's cost of finance in the interim period was £31.8 million (£21 million).

Since the beginning of this year, the group has realised £100 million through sales of investment properties.

Part of this amount has been used to acquire properties from the Prudential and part has gone towards reducing group debt.

Analysts estimate the group's present net worth at about 500p a share, compared with last balance sheet's disclosed net worth of 637p a share.

The A shares yesterday rose 13p to 192p.

Metals exit lifts McKechie

By OUR CITY STAFF

A RECOVERY in Australasia, improved gross margins and a sharp reduction in interest costs helped lift profits 21 per cent at McKechie, the plastics group.

Pre-tax profits climbed to £24.1 million in the year to end-July despite a 5 per cent fall in turnover to £286 million. Sales levels were maintained. McKechie benefited from last year's decision to move out of metals, which generated about £53 million and helped to eliminate gearing. As a result, group interest costs were cut from £3.7 million to £400,000.

Cost-cutting and restructuring helped profits recover from £634,000 to £5.1 million at Pacific, the Australasian division.

Profits fell 17.6 per cent to

£2.48 million at the plastics division, on turnover up 3.2 per cent to £142 million. The consumer division lifted profits by 7.6 per cent to £5.36 million, despite a turnover down 7 per cent to £48.7 million, while profits from the specialist division climbed 26.9 per cent to £10.6 million, on turnover down 13.6 per cent to £94.7 million.

Sales growth at the plastics division, which accounts for about half of group turnover, was restricted by a 12 per cent decline in turnover at the vehicle components division. Setbacks at the automotive sector were largely responsible for the decline in plastics profits, although the company says current order books are stronger than a year ago.

The company said its Uni-

ted Kingdom operations will benefit from cost cutting this year, although demand remains flat, particularly in areas exposed to sectors related to housing and DIY.

Michael Ost, chief executive, said any recovery in the group's main markets is not anticipated before the next financial year at the earliest. However, he said the group's geographic and product balance, and steps taken to increase efficiency, will allow earnings to grow.

There was an extraordinary dividend of £113,000. Earnings rose by 21.8 per cent to 20.7p a share. The final dividend is maintained at 9.75p, for an unchanged total of 14.75p for the year.

Tempest, page 24

Public sector pay claimed to be lagging

By ROSS TYEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT claims that public sector pay has overtaken private sector remuneration are misleading, says a study by Incomes Data Services, the pay research group.

The New Earnings Survey shows comparative figures are distorted by a reduction in the proportion of manual workers employed by local authorities. This appears to undermine the case for holding down public sector pay rises.

IDS says manual workers in the public sector had average earnings of £244.40 last year (£252.40, private), and among white collar workers, public sector pay averaged £328.60 (£337.90, private).

Farnell Electronics surges in first half

By OUR CITY STAFF

FARNELL Electronics, Europe's second largest distributor of electronic components, has shown an impressive rise in first half profits.

Trading profits after interest rose from £13.3 million to £15.4 million in the six months to end-July. But the sale of a non-trading subsidiary with net assets of £6.2 million gave rise to a one-off gain of £6.4 million. The windfall left pre-tax profits sharply higher at £21.8 million, against £13.3 million.

Turnover increased from £82 million to £127 million, reflecting the acquisition of Farnell Cayson and ESD Distribution. Earnings per share were 12.3p (6.5p). There is an interim dividend of 2.8p (2.6p) a share.

Richard Hanwell, who was appointed chairman in June, said prospects look good. "The company is forging ahead," he said. "We are seeing consistent growth and expanding

into Europe." Cash generation has cut gearing from 36 per cent to 7 per cent.

Ray Kidd, the former chairman, retired in August. Mr Hanwell, who, with Henry Elstone, finance director, was in London to brief analysts yesterday, expects the company to be cash-positive by the year end. The company continues to be strongly cash generative and is no longer utilising its revolving credit facility to finance the ESD acquisition. Net borrowings at July 31 were £7.2 million (£26.4 million). Mr Hanwell was chief executive of Norton Opax until its acquisition by Bowater in 1989.

A writ alleging wrongful dismissal has been issued against Farnell by Eric Hall, who was dismissed as chief executive of the manufacturing division in July.

The company opens a new distribution facility near Lyon in France next month.



Growth run: Henry Elstone, left, and Richard Hanwell

Fraud flourishes across UK

By JON ASHWORTH

IN THE 12 months since Robert Maxwell disappeared into the sea near Tenerife, Britain has become a nation of tricksters. So it would appear from a new survey that shows fraud is rocketing and London and the South East have more crooks than anywhere else.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, has compiled a "fraud barometer" that tracks cases of fraud involving £100,000 or more.

By June 18, the value of reported fraud — not to mention the countless cases that never come to light — had overtaken the total of £376 million recorded in 1991, itself 64 per cent up on the previous year. By the end of August, the UK fraud total



Maxwell: wave of fraud

had reached £445 million. Maxwell, with £140 million involved, is the largest fraud in UK history. Next in line is Polly Peck International where the charges allege a total of £130 million. Some £5 billion is wrapped up in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, but the main charges are likely to be brought overseas.

While the really big numbers may grab the headlines, it is the huge increase in smaller-scale fraud that has alarmed observers. Phil Haberman, KPMG's fraud specialist, says the recession is flushing out tricksters like rats from a sinking ship.

There has been a massive increase in mortgage frauds, often involving accountants and solicitors operating in

rings. The other big rise is in frauds perpetrated by company directors, who channel false invoices through the books to make their company appear solvent long after it has gone bust.

There was the Day of the Jackal scam in which a former milkman used false identities from gravestones to swindle mortgage lenders out of nearly £500,000. There was the "squat shop" one in which a gang moved into empty shops around Britain and allegedly evaded about £2 million in VAT.

Some 69 per cent of all prominent fraud cases in the past six years — 211 cases involving £12 billion — were recorded in London and the South East. The Midlands had 23 cases involving £56 million, and the North West 11 cases totalling £63 million.

Since 1987, the South East has suffered fraud at the rate of £72 per person, compared with East Anglia, North East and Wales losing just £2 per head. Londoners may not be any more dishonest — they just have more head offices to swell the figures.

Among the biggest losers are the 70,000 residents of the Isle of Man. The £42 million collapse of the Savings and Investments Bank has left them with a loss of £606 for every man, woman and child.

Chrysler drives to profit

FROM PHILIP REYNOLDS
IN NEW YORK

CHRYSLER Corporation is likely to be the only American car maker to end this year in the black. The smallest of the American car groups outfoxed Wall Street yesterday with a near \$300 million turnaround from loss to profit.

For July, August and September, Chrysler made a net \$202 million, triple what analysts had expected and up from a \$82 million loss in the same period last year. Its shares climbed almost \$1 to a peak for the year of \$25.75.

Two years ago, analysts predicted that Chrysler, rescued from near-bankruptcy a decade ago, could not survive the recession. But Lee Iacocca, chairman, who retires in December, said demand was strong, market share climbing and third quarter sales up 22 per cent to \$9.2 billion. The results represented its first two consecutive profitable quarters for almost 30 months.

General Motors and Ford are expected to end the year in the red. GM has had to deny rumours it was to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, amid reports that its North American car operations will lose up to \$5 billion this year.

Russian inflation 'reaching 14,000%'

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE explosion in Russian money supply since June has caused a rapid acceleration in inflation which has left prices rising by a weekly 10 per cent, a senior adviser to the Russian government said.

"Monetary policy has caused prices to accelerate by perhaps 10 per cent per week," said Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Harvard University. The annual rate is more than 14,000 per cent. Mr Sachs scolded the International Monetary Fund for not providing enough assistance to Russia. "The IMF has not had a single monetary expert resident in Moscow in 1992," he said.

Mr Sachs was speaking in London at a conference on banking reform in Eastern Europe organised by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "There has been no help from outside and Russia's problems are about to explode," he said.

Mr Sachs said the Russian money supply had ballooned by 150 per cent since July 1 to 4,000 billion roubles from 1,500 billion. "This is the handiwork of a government and central bank in an extraordinarily dangerous and reckless attempt to provide liquidity to the industrial sector," Mr Sachs said.

Speakers at the conference agreed vested interests in Russia's military-industrial complex were pressuring the authorities to provide cash to pay inflated wages in the industrial sector. "The result has been a collapse in the value of the currency," Mr Sachs said. "It's a textbook case."

The rouble tumbled to a new record low against the dollar yesterday, falling to 368 roubles per dollar from 338 roubles at the last session last Thursday. Sachs said credits from the central bank were being used to pay wages rather than stimulate production.

"Anyway, the problem is that they want to maintain supply but there is no demand," Mr Sachs said. "Russia produces 80 per cent more steel than the United States and there is no place to park that much steel."

Mr Sachs, who has been consistently more worried than the IMF about Russia's deep economic problems, said industrial production in the former Soviet republic continued to fall sharply despite the money supply growth. Output is down 28 per cent, he said.

Mr Sachs also chastised the IMF for advising former Soviet republics that they should not issue their own currencies. "This was politically and economically mistaken," he said. "The IMF said the large budget deficits would lead to unstable money but in the meantime the authorities continue to issue roubles." Mr Sachs said there was a straightforward solution to the currency problem. Each republic should introduce a national currency and maintain a floating rate against the rouble.

He said that the existing legal separation in Russian law between cash and non-cash money made it very difficult to establish a credible banking system. "If you can't get your money out when you have put it in, you've got a problem."

THE TIMES FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Will appear monthly as from Wednesday
18th November 1992

For further information call
James Alexander or James Leary

on
071 481 1982

Interest Rate Reduction Notice to Cardholders

Barclaycard is to reduce the rate of monthly interest charged from 1.85% to 1.79% with effect from 1st November 1992.

Interest at the new rate, will be charged and shown on cardholder statements issued from 1st December 1992 and thereafter until further notice.

No interest is charged if the whole of the outstanding balance is repaid by the 25th day following the date of the statement.

Clause 3 (iii) of the Barclaycard Conditions of Use is amended accordingly.

STOCK MARKET

Shares surge as investors scent further base rate cut

INVESTORS had the bit between their teeth in the belief that bank base rates will be cut again soon to 7 per cent in order to revive the economy.

More than £10 billion was added to the value of publicly quoted companies as the equity market soared back through the 2,600 level to come within 120 points of its all-time high, achieved in May in the wake of the general election.

The FT-SE 100 index enjoyed an early mark-up bolstered by reports that domestic interest rates could fall to as low as 5 per cent by Christmas and encouraging remarks from the Bundesbank about its own interest rate policy.

The Bundesbank is due to meet next week to discuss whether to cut rates. Latest bank lending figures indicated how deep the recession had reached, with the lowest number since records were first kept.

The index closed near its best of the day with a rise of 54.8 at 2,617.0. Brokers said price movements had been exaggerated by short positions and a general absence of sellers and this had been reflected in the low turnover figure of 631 million shares.

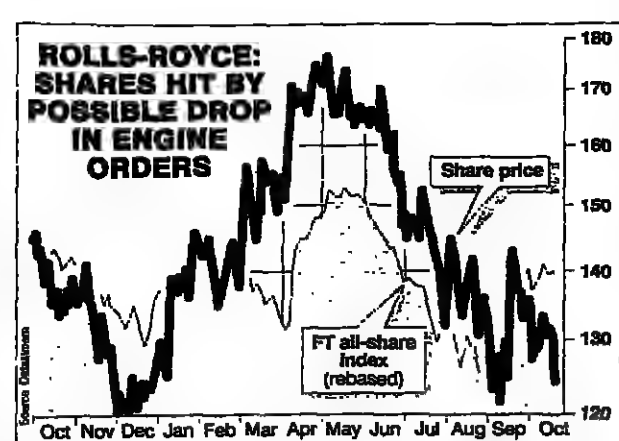
The squeeze was also exacerbated by the futures market with market-makers arbitraging their positions with the cash market.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, fell 3 1/2 to 126p after a profit downgrade by Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker.

Panmure is sticking with its pre-tax profit forecast of £72 million for the current year, but has cut its estimate for 1993 by £15 million to £115 million.

Investors are also hoping that the government U-turn over pit closures will lead to a period of political stability.

On the future market, the long gilt rose more than £1 to 98.27 1/2, and in the cash market at the longer end, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 handed almost £1 to 99.1 1/2.



million. Last week R-R's big rival, Pratt & Whitney, told its workers that orders for new civil aircraft at Boeing and McDonnell Douglas were likely to drop from 801 aircraft to 632. R-R was expected to supply about 10 per cent of the engines for those aircraft and is now likely to experience a decrease of at least 36 engines. Panmure is also worried about a reduction in capacity among airlines and about the dividend cover.

Glywed finished 1p lighter at 207p after Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, trimmed its pre-tax profit forecast for this year and next. Kleinwort is now looking for £31 million this year and £37 million in 1993. IMI also fell 9p to 213p after Smith New

polls 17p to 400p, Bass 18p to 528p, and Rank Organisation 22p to 530p. The recovery continues at Asda, the supermarket chain, with the price rising 3 1/2p to 43 1/2p. The group is expected to benefit from the lurch to cheaper money. By the close, 16 million shares had traded. Costain, the construction group, was unmoved at 25p

after the announcement that it was selling its Australian coal mining interests to Hanson for £123 million. Earlier this month, cash-rich Hanson launched an aggressive £780 million hostile offer for Ranks Hovis McDougall, the Home-Pride and Mr Kiplings food group.

RHM was unchanged yesterday at 244p — a premium of 24p above the terms being offered by Hanson. Last week, RHM announced plans to demerge the businesses into three separate divisions as part of its defence. Hanson was a firm market, adding 5 1/2p to £225 1/2.

ICI rallied from recent weakness to finish 24p higher at £10.27 after selling its aerospace and defence coatings business to Coatings, up 6p at 460p. Greenalls, the regional brewing and hotels group, fell 15p to 344p after asking shareholders for an extra £86 million by way of a rights issue.

The prospect of lower interest rates cheered the banks amid hopes that the move will result in lower bad debt provisions. Barclays rallied 12p to 313p, and there were also gains for HSBC 8p to 483p, Lloyds 7p to 434p, and National Westminster 15p to 349p.

Elsewhere in the financial sector, the insurers were chased higher. Cains were recorded in Commercial Union 17p to 554p, General Accident 25p to 530p, Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 155p, Royal Insurance 8p to 191p and Sun Alliance 10p to 305p.

MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH FUNDS

1992			Price			1991		1990		1992		
High	Low	Stock	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	High	Low	Stock
SHORTS (under 3 years)												
999	999	Trans 9/93	100			6.03	5.57			100%	96%	Trans
100	999	Trans 9/93	100			6.23	5.77			100%	100%	Trans
101	100	Trans 10/90	101			9.89	7.20			100%	96%	Trans
102	100	Trans 12/90	102			13.03	6.83			117%	100%	Trans
103	103	Trans 1/93	103			13.82	6.70			124%	116%	Trans
104	99	Trans 9/94	104			6.54	6.76					Trans
105	99	Trans 9/94	105			6.64	6.64					Trans
106	98	Trans 1/94	106			5.31	6.78			93%	88%	Trans
107	98	Trans 12/94	107			11.42	6.89			99%	100%	Trans
108	98	Trans 12/94	108			13.17	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
109	104	Trans 1/94	109			13.21	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
110	98	Trans 1/94	110			13.32	6.89			123%	123%	Trans
111	98	Trans 1/94	111			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
112	100	Trans 1/94	112			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
113	100	Trans 1/94	113			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
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115	100	Trans 1/94	115			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
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118	100	Trans 1/94	118			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
119	100	Trans 1/94	119			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
120	100	Trans 1/94	120			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
121	100	Trans 1/94	121			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
122	100	Trans 1/94	122			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
123	100	Trans 1/94	123			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
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125	100	Trans 1/94	125			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
126	100	Trans 1/94	126			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
127	100	Trans 1/94	127			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
128	100	Trans 1/94	128			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
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130	100	Trans 1/94	130			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
131	100	Trans 1/94	131			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
132	100	Trans 1/94	132			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
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225	100	Trans 1/94	225			13.32	6.89			100%	100%	Trans
226	100	Trans 1/94	226			13.32						

COMMENT

Shaking up the power regime

Michael Heseltine's back-bench colleagues may have been satisfied by his vague promise of a three month review of the coal closure programme. Businessmen who have seen their electricity bills rise steeply during the worst recession since the war will be far less happy. There are far too many signs of structural defects in power supply post privatisation for industrialists to believe that their present complaints can be remedied by a low key review conducted within Mr Heseltine's department. The moratorium offers a political opportunity, reinforced by public opinion, for a soup-to-nuts examination of how the electricity industry works within a coherent energy strategy. The prime objective should be to produce power at cheap but sustainable prices from a balance of fuel sources.

Such a review would firstly need to address the failures which have followed privatisation of the generators as an effective duopoly. This structure gives PowerGen and National Power enormous influence in the market for coal which is capable of abuse as the generators take part in the dash for gas at the expense of some parts of the coal industry. The steep rises in power prices, far beyond the levels of prices generally, suggest that the much vaunted benefits of competition which were supposed to follow privatisation, have simply not worked as envisaged. The pool pricing system, where individual generators supply power in a nationally competitive market, has not proved a success. Analysts and energy economists suspect that the pool may in fact distort prices and competition. The nuclear levy is certainly a distorting influence aimed to ensure a mix of power sources. Without the subsidy from the levy, nuclear power would be uncompetitive, though plants already built would probably still operate.

Such a wide ranging review would be most likely to provide the basis for an integrated energy policy if conducted by an independent body such as the monopolies commission. But the results might be damaging for shareholders in both the generators and the regional electricity distribution companies. Changes emerging from such a review would certainly not save all the endangered pits. If it proposed forced sale of old coal-burning stations and the sale of marginal pits which could operate without British Coal overheads, it could help coal retain a larger share of the market.

Innocent bankers

Like Caesar's wife, the Bank of England must be above suspicion. So the Bank was right to call in the Serious Fraud Office when it heard persistent reports that its officials had been bribed by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. No-one seriously believed that Bank regulators had been silenced by a few briefcases full of dollars, even though the cash would have come in handy during the recent sterling crisis. But the allegations could have hung in the air for years had they not been silenced by a full police investigation.

Tomorrow, the Bank will face more serious, and less easily defensible charges from Lord Justice Bingham's report on its handling and closure of BCCI. The report is expected to condemn the Bank's regulatory performance and ask why it did not take effective action in early 1990 when it first received warnings that something was badly wrong in the bank's books. The Bank still believes it dealt with the complex multi-centred affairs of BCCI as well as could be expected within the legal framework existing at the time. The fact remains that the bank was closed only in 1991, 13 years after the fraud began and more than a year after it appears to have ended. While the Bank of England's officials are honest, they have yet to prove they are effective.

In the first of two reports from the Far East,

Ross Tieman says

British industry should heed the rapid economic changes in the region

In a yellow cable car rumbling towards Sentosa Island, Singapore's offshore theme park, a local Chinese woman on a Sunday afternoon outing summed up the Pacific miracle: "We work too much," she said with a rueful smile. Far to the left, the skyscrapers of downtown Singapore loomed over the gantries of the world's second largest container port. Ships lay anchored as far as the eye could see. To the right were the chimneys of Singapore's oil refineries.

Within a generation, the "tiger" economies of the Asia-Pacific region — South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong — have surged from near penury to the brink of prosperity. Income per head in Singapore, at US\$14,000 a year, exceeds that of New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, Greece and Portugal. The next generation of Singaporeans should enjoy a higher disposable income than their British counterparts, and be better trained.

The ramifications of the explosive economic growth in Southeast Asia during the 1980s extend far beyond the region. While businessmen in Europe and America struggle against recession, and even Japan falters, latest forecasts suggest the economies of Asia-Pacific will continue to expand at rates averaging more than 6 per cent a year, net of inflation.

For the first time, the region appears to have largely decoupled from the global economy to grow in its own right. Although there are concerns about the slowdown in the West, Asia appears to be changing from a region of low-cost exporters to one of consumers.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the economies of the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, accounted for 24 per cent of world income by 1989. By 2010, their share is predicted to be 35 per cent and by 2040 more than 50 per cent.

Such long-term forecasts are inevitably fraught with difficulty, but British industrialists and politicians would do well to heed them, for the leading economies of Southeast Asia are increasingly qualified to join the club of developed nations.

Gordon Duggan, Britain's high commissioner in Singapore, said: "This is now an OECD economy in all but name." Of course, there are political, racial and religious tensions throughout the region, suppressed by rising prosperity. Many political leaders are now wondering how best to manage the social changes resulting from improved education and the expected transition to slower growth. The regional leaders are working to strengthen ties to maintain economic momentum and enhance political



The old and the new: how the Singapore skyline is changing in line with the burgeoning economy

stability. During their summit in July, the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) took the first steps towards a free trade area. The reduction or removal of tariffs would add impetus to a regional economy that is building up internal trade to satisfy local demand — while reducing dependence on former markets in the depressed developed world.

At the same meeting, the region's politicians demonstrated their desire to defuse regional tension by unexpectedly producing the South China Sea declaration. This was designed to reduce the likelihood of conflict between the various claimants to the Spratly Islands, 160 miles north of Borneo, which are believed to have rich oil reserves.

The creation of an international political framework for regional

growth is partly a recognition of increasing interdependence. The economies share three common factors even more important than geographical proximity. They tend to have strong governments and outward-looking development policies involving market mechanisms.

Japan, the first Asian country to industrialise, helped trigger growth elsewhere in the region.

As Japanese prosperity and wages rose in the 1970s and 1980s, companies moved labour-intensive production to nearby countries to maintain their cost advantage. That strategy has been copied by some western companies, adding to the capital inflow. Open-door policies and cheap labour have been crucial to development. As living standards

and costs have risen in the four tigers, however, growth rates have moderated, so a new cluster of fast-growth states, with even cheaper labour, has emerged. Malaysia and Thailand, with growth rates of about 8 per cent expected this year, are struggling to cool their economies. They need time to improve their infrastructure and avoid excessive inflation.

Indonesia, with a largely rural population of more than 170 million, grew more than 6.6 per cent last year. Even the Philippines is showing signs of recovery. This year, China has exploded into life. Industrial output is estimated to have risen 20 per cent in the first half as free-market reforms have swept the south of the country. Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are waiting in the wings, offering even cheaper labour in

exchange for foreign investment. But it is the sudden growth in China, with more than 1 billion people, that has focused attention on the human element of developing Southeast Asia.

Commentators in the region believe Asia Pacific's boom is largely a Chinese phenomenon. The Chinese work ethic and community network has played a key role in the development process. The migration of millions of Chinese labourers during European colonial rule has endowed every Asean country with a substantial Chinese community.

There are now believed to be more than 30 million people of Chinese origin living outside China. They form a multinational community of entrepreneurs, have family and business links across the region, a strong propensity to save, a willingness to speculate and the habit of hard work. By one estimate, they have amassed a personal wealth surpassing even that of the Japanese. They are not alone in their habits of thrift and entrepreneurship. The average Singaporean saves 48 per cent of his or her income.

The combination of Chinese entrepreneurship, Japanese management and production techniques, ready availability of capital and indigenous enthusiasm for development has proved a heady cocktail.

Graham Hayward, executive director of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, said: "In Europe, working life seems to stop at 5pm. Here, that does not happen. Business goes on 24 hours a day, and seven days a week, if necessary."

Asia Pacific's industriousness is proving a success. The industrial corporations of Taiwan and Korea are investing elsewhere in the region to cut costs and develop markets. If Peking's market-oriented reforms are sustained, the Chinese entrepreneurs of Asia Pacific, with the advantages of common languages, local contacts and access to capital, are likely to play a vital role in China's modernisation.

Rising incomes are turning workers into enthusiastic consumers. By the year 2000, prosperity will have widened so that more than 110 million households in the region, excluding Japan, will have incomes of more than US\$10,000 a year, at 1986 prices. That is a lot of purchasing power.

British industrialists increasingly see the Asia-Pacific economies as a threat as well as an opportunity. Many European multinationals already have production bases in the region. Some exporters are doing very well. Last year, UK exports to the region, excluding Japan and China, were \$4.7 billion, equal to a third of Britain's annual export sales to Germany, its biggest market. While the Asia-Pacific market is growing fast, the same cannot be said of markets in Germany, France or America. Britain's other favourite customers.

Singaporeans relaxing on a Sunday might regret their limited leisure time, but their long working hours and hard saving are helping to transform their region. That transformation is not yet complete, although it will challenge many British companies. If handled well, it could also offer a wealth of opportunities.

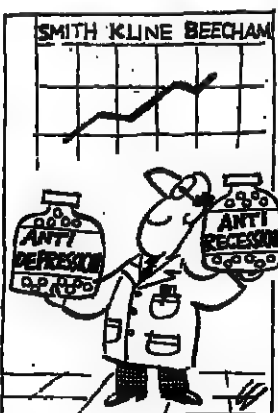
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Miner problem for Walker

THE hilarity on the opposition back benches at the appointment of Lord Walker to co-ordinate the miners' aid package could soon turn to indignation. Not only was Walker the energy secretary during the last miners' strike, but the former Secretary of State for Wales is also a non-executive director of the Welsh subsidiary of N M Rothschild, the merchant bank. It was, of course, N M Rothschild's review of the coal industry which formed the platform for the controversial closures, as originally announced, and the bank is now advising the trade and industry department on the new industry review. N M Rothschild, which was delighted to have secured Walker's services for its Cardiff office, stresses that he played no part in its coal advisory work. The review was, it explains, led by Keith Palmer, an energy specialist who was formerly with the World Bank. But Walker's close association with the bank cannot be disputed. He is, after all, also a non-executive director of Smith New Court, the broker, in which N M Rothschild has a 29 per cent shareholding, and he remains a non-executive director at British Gas, another body with a partisan interest in the coal industry's future.

Soft landing

NOT even a broken ankle has been able to prevent Clive Sinclair-Poulton, one of the City's more legendary *bon viveurs*,



from staging a stylish comeback. Last seen at Javelin Securities, the soft-commission broker with which he parted company after Greenwell Montagu took over the firm in June, Sinclair-Poulton has resurfaced at Jefferies International, the London office of the broker which is based in Los Angeles, where he is in charge of European marketing. "My former colleagues told me to break a leg, instead I broke an ankle," says Sinclair-Poulton, 36, who fell off a ladder at his Cambridgeshire home the day before starting work at Jefferies International, and is now hobbling round the Square Mile on crutches. After beginning his City career as a research analyst at Simon & Coates in 1978, he moved on to Citibank, Security Pacific and Hoare Govett in turn before serving at Hoenig, the soft-commission stockbroker, from 1985-1988. His passion for soft commissions led to him being dubbed "The Evangelist of Soft" by *Business* magazine. He is now, he says, intent on convincing fund

managers that Jefferies International, which will trade "any line of stock in any type of stock", can give them the best price — and the crutches can only help.

No more Nomura

TALK by Japanese companies of being here for the long haul failed to cut much ice at Nomura yesterday as it reduced its European equity division workforce by a third. Among the 50 casualties was legendary banking analyst John Tyce, who seems to have been as much a victim of internal politics as Nomura's desire to "concentrate on profit making areas". Building analyst Andrew Melrose also lost his position. Nomura denied rumours that it had also halved its research department but admitted to pulling out of five key stock market sectors including financials and building — which are seen as crucial to any long-term European players. It now covers just nine sectors, with a 60-strong equity desk and has quit European market-making. Tyce, meanwhile, a key adviser on the GPA issue this summer, and former head of research, has, according to insiders, been made something of a scapegoat for GPA's failure. Research now comes under Basil Postan, joint head of United Kingdom equities. Postan's background is sales and Nomura's failure to remain research-driven is said to have caused much dissatisfaction and seven departures even before yesterday's cuts.

CAROL LEONARD

Regulators' role over Dan-Air

From the managing director, AirUK

Sir, Your Comment item (October 14) says that it is a condition of BA's proposed rescue of Dan-Air that the "usual leisurely deliberations" of the regulators should be "not merely foreshortened but eliminated altogether". It ends by concluding that the regulators ought to be able to justify their existence by seeing to it that the rescue does not operate against the public interest. Any link between the dominant UK airline and the airline which holds more slots at Gatwick than any other carrier without a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry is out of the question. The UK Government has been at the forefront of aviation liberalisation in Europe, but it has always insisted that safeguards should be in place against monopolistic and anti-competitive behaviour to protect the consumer's interest and those of Europe's smaller airlines.

BA's ability to dominate the UK market place through its substantial network and sophisticated distribution techniques is already clear: it would be enhanced still further by the acquisition of Dan-Air. In November 1987, after an expedient enquiry, the MMC concluded that BA's

acquisition of BCal, then Gatwick's largest carrier, would carry with it huge disadvantages not least that BA would "occupy a very powerful market position" giving it "various opportunities of predatory or anti-competitive behaviour"; they also found that the merger "would leave a number of routes with either no competition at all or a level of competition too low to exert any pressure on the merged airline". Following these conclusions, BA itself put forward safeguards, all of which would now effectively disappear if BA was allowed to swallow up Dan-Air.

If Dan-Air joins BA's growing stable of subordinate airlines, which already in this country includes GB Airways, Brymon European and Caledonian, what price the government's multi-airline policy then? The success of the deregulation in Europe, which the government has for so long espoused, rests upon adequate opportunities being made available for smaller airlines. Such opportunities will only be available if BA's ambitions are, for once, denied by the regulators.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW GRAY Managing Director AirUK Ltd. Staines, Essex.

Growing predominance of institutional investment welcomed

From Colin Paterson

Sir, How appropriate that ProShare, the new body which is to encourage private share ownership, should use balloons to mark its launch (October 15). It is surely wrong to encourage people of

average means to speculate directly in the shares of individual companies. For those who still believe — despite the evidence of the last five years — that shares have longer term attractions, the answer should be a balanced portfolio of

investments made through a managed fund. The growing predominance of institutional investment is to be welcomed. Yours faithfully, COLIN PATERSON, Cannizaro Associates, 67 Murray Road, SW19.

Barclays Bank PLC

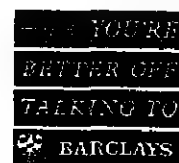
The following reductions in lending interest rates are effective from the close of business on 20th October 1992.

OVERDRAFTS

	New Rate	Old Rate
Barclays Personal Overdrafts	1.85% per month (19.8% p.a.)	1.85% per month (22.2% p.a.)
Unauthorised Overdrafts	2.65% per month (31.8% p.a.)	2.75% per month (33.0% p.a.)
Executive Overdrafts	15% per annum	17% per annum

LOANS

Executive Loan Rate	15% per annum	17% per annum
Executive Premium Loan Rate	14.25% per annum	16.25% per annum



Barclays Bank PLC. Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH

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No.	Company	Group	Share price
1	Standard Chart	Finance/Sec	1.00
2	London Elect	Electricity	1.00
3	Chico	Electricity	1.00
4	Business (C)	Business Serv	1.00
5	Widom	Mineral	1.00
6	Blue Circle	Building/Rls	1.00
7	Blom	Property	1.00
8	GKN	Industrial	1.00
9	Shell	Oil/Gas	1.00
10	Hepworth	Industrial	1.00
11	McKie	Industrial	1.00
12	Rugby Group	Building/Rls	1.00
13	CRA	Mineral	1.00
14	Marika Spencer	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
15	Carlton Comm	Leisure	1.00
16	Harcourt	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
17	Hynd Wm	Building/Rls	1.00
18	Hardy O & G	Oil/Gas	1.00
19	HSCB	Banking/Sec	1.00
20	Driffield	Mineral	1.00
21	Lucas	Motor/Veh	1.00
22	Broken Hill	Industrial	1.00
23	Enterprise	Oil/Gas	1.00
24	Tecon	Food	1.00
25	Medea	Industrial	1.00
26	Chamers Com	Industrial	1.00
27	Buffet	Mineral	1.00
28	Grampian Hld	Industrial	1.00
29	Transfer Tech	Industrial	1.00
30	Sanford Gdn	Industrial	1.00
31	Lee (Vest)	Industrial	1.00
32	Rover	Motor/Veh	1.00
33	Y & N	Industrial	1.00
34	Kellogg Ind	Industrial	1.00
35	Wash Water	Water	1.00
36	Lox Ind	Industrial	1.00
37	Burroughs	Industrial	1.00
38	Eastmond Us	Transport	1.00
39	LASMO	Oil/Gas	1.00
40	Bire	Industrial	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.45pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Two winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Miss D Lloyd of Oakdale, Dorset and Mr P Chaborel of Crawley, West Sussex.

1992 High Low Company Price % Chg % YTD P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	ABN AMRO	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Barclays	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	HSBC	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	London & Lanc	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Midland	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	Natwest	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Paragon	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Prudential	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Royal Bank	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Santander	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	TSB	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Yorkshire	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

1992 High Low Company Price % Chg % YTD P/E

BUSINESS SERVICES

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

DRAPERY, STORES

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

ELECTRICALS

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
5	Heineken	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
6	King	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
7	Miller	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
8	Stout	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
9	Tennent	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
10	Watney	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

Strong gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 19. Dealings end October 30. Settlement day November 2. Settlement day November 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price % Chg % YTD P/E

No.	Company	Price	% Chg	% YTD	P/E
1	Adnams	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
2	Beck's	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	Carlsberg	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
4	Guinness	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
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11	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
12	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
13	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
14	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
15	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
16	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
17	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
18	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
19	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0
20	Windsor	1.00	0.0	0.0	1.0

ELECTRICITY

463	273	East Midlands	395	+7	17.1
387	265	Eastern Fleet	386	-1	16.7
229	143	Hydro-Elec	257	-3	10.1
418	368	London Elec	416	+9	16.8
466	334	Manweb	488	+12	18.2
415	287	Midlands Elec	400	+8	17.2
418	295	Northern Elec	432	+1	18.5
443	398	Northw	437	-6	17.7
220	142	Scottish Power	383	+9	16.1
400	357	Southeast	414	-4	16.4
415	313	Southern	476	+1	19.4
431	301	Sth Western	438	-3	17.4
412	370	Southwest Elec	399	-3	16.6
446	331	Yorkshire Elec	463	+5	17.7
385	185	Yorkshire Power	250	-6	6.1
395	196	YorkshireGen	257	-4	9.2



THEATRE page 31

That's the way of the world: Sheila Hancock is the comic crone left lovelorn at the Lyric

ARTS

TELEVISION page 31

A passion to provoke: Kenneth Griffith on why his documentaries are so often banned



LITERATURE: Quotation addicts will have to find space for a new volume on their crowded shelves this month

And now, a word or two for posterity

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations has had a facelift. Minor Edwardian poets are out; women and pop stars are in. Clive Davis reads between the great lines

Words, words, words. Wise words, foolish words, spiteful words — as long as they are even faintly memorable they will be picked up and re-packaged by the quotation industry. The publishing trade is full of gum faces at present, yet the compilers of quotes still seem able to find a market for their wares.

Another doozy, the updated edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations arrives this month, squeezing onto the shelves next to its slimmer sister volume, the recently issued Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations. Penguin issued a revised version of its own dictionary earlier this year, while the most famous collection of them all, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, enters its 16th edition in December. Quotation addicts, the kind of people who lie awake at night mulling the words of half-forgotten doggerel, can also seek a remedy by subscribing to a quarterly newsletter for fellow-aufferers.

The new Oxford dictionary has already provoked grumblings — on the predictable grounds of declining standards. The previous edition, issued in 1979, was a staid selection with relatively few contemporary utterances. The revised edition has a more modern flavour and reads less like a list of Oxfordshire set texts.

But the balance has swung too far, say some, worried about an excess of trivia and ephemera. OUP played into the hands of its detractors earlier this year when it sent out advance publicity highlighting new additions from such sources as David Bowie ("Ground control to Major Tom") and Billy Connolly ("Marriage is a wonderful invention; but, then again, so is a bicycle repair kit").

The editor, Angela Partington, is already digging in for what could be a lengthy siege. In the coming weeks she may need to seek solace in perusing the ever-quotable Doctor Johnson. "Dictionaries," he

wrote, "are like watches, the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true."

Partington spent three years on the project, working with a group of researchers as well as nine specialist advisers, most of them Oxford dons. Her own background is decidedly un-academic. Now 47, she has held a variety of jobs, ranging from secretary to television researcher, and as a mature student she took a degree in English at St Hilda's in 1974.

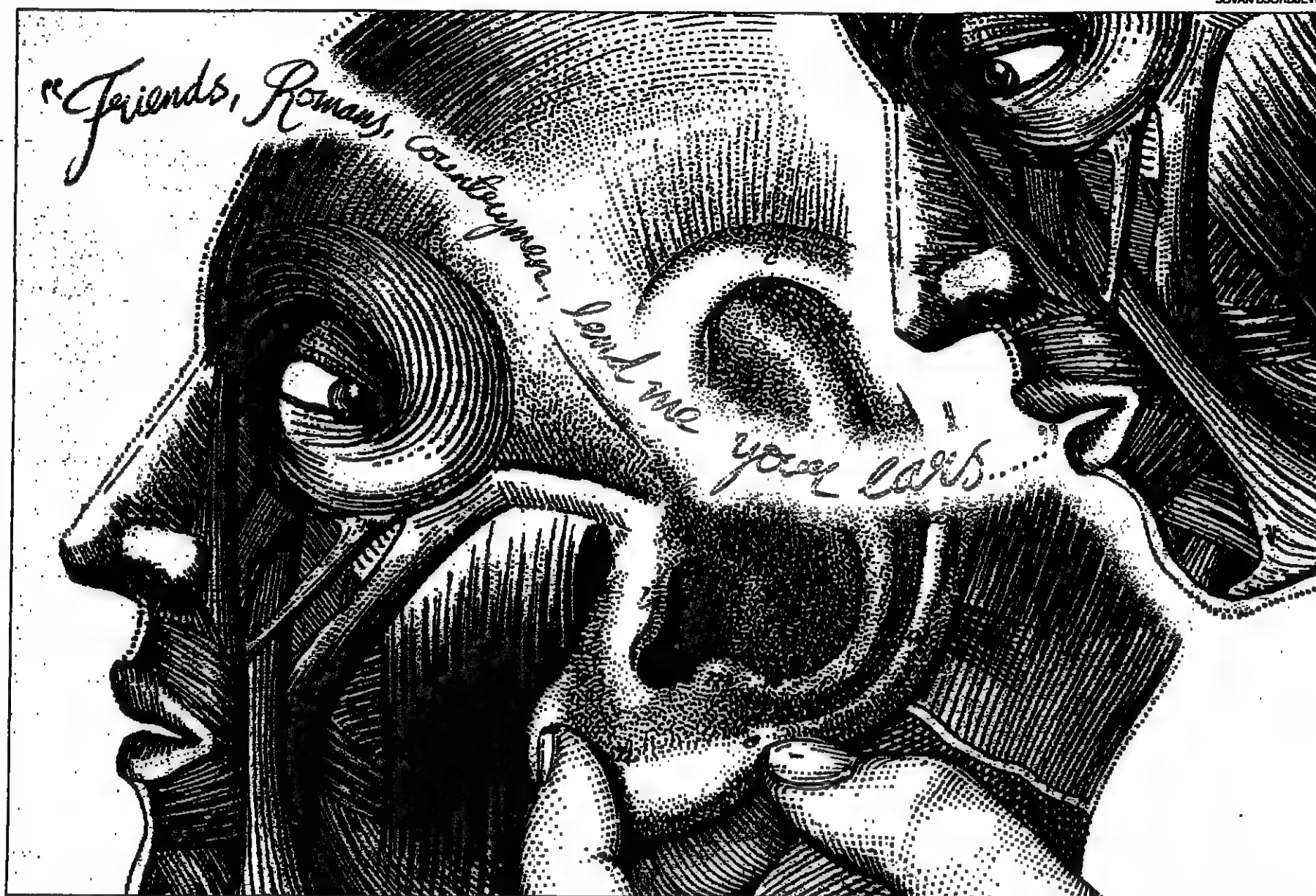
She is unapologetic about the changes she has made. Most of the deletions, she says, have affected minor Victorian and Edwardian poets. Shakespeare still occupies

70-odd pages, though the sonnets have been trimmed back. More space has also been made for scientists and economists — and Sigmund Freud, who was unaccountably passed over in previous editions. As for the much-criticised pop lyrics, she stands

firm, pointing out that the previous edition largely overlooked popular songs — no Cole Porter or Rodgers and Hammerstein, let alone John Lennon. You do not have to be a rock fan, she argues, to wonder about the origins of phrases like "Back in the USSR" or "Everything's Coming Up Roses".

Partington also believes that her selection treats women more fairly. "Dictionaries of quotations tend to be the terrain of dabbable, tweedy men," she says. "You don't find women reviewing books like this. The last edition was very mannish. It didn't have the vigour of a masculine book — it was a sort of prep school book for boys in long trousers." At which point she recites one of the new entries, a couplet by Ogden Nash: "Professional men, they have no cares/Whatever happens, they get there."

Fair comment, as many a coal miner will agree. But readers will be puzzled by some of the other entries. Why bother, for example, to insert this little-known comment by Mrs Thatcher on the Falklands



War: "It is exciting to have a real crisis on your hands, when you have spent half your political life dealing with humdrum issues like the environment."

A mischievous choice, surely? Partington whispers, somewhat mysteriously, that she was "under quite a lot of pressure to put it in". One Thatcher quote that is missing, on the other hand, is "Rejoice, rejoice" — the paraphrase of her response to the taking of South Georgia. "I actually felt it was rather offensive," says Partington, somewhat unconvincingly. Though she lives in a quiet village south west of Oxford, her social and political views are clearly those of North Oxford Woman.

Surprisingly, the first Oxford Dictionary of Quotations did not

appear until 1941, by which time Bartlett's Familiar Quotations was already on its way to its centenary. The work takes its name from John Bartlett, a 19th century bookshop owner in Massachusetts who brought out his first edition — mainly devoted to extracts from the Bible, Shakespeare and British authors — in 1855.

Unlike most of its rivals, Bartlett's is arranged chronologically, starting with ancient Egyptian texts and proceeding through the Bible. That well-known autodidact and phrase-maker, Winston Churchill, invariably kept a copy at hand. "It is a good thing," he once wrote, "for an uneducated man to read books of quotations. Bartlett's

Familiar Quotations is an admirable work, and I studied it intently." The new edition runs to 1,400 pages and, like the Oxford Dictionary, has expanded coverage of women and minorities, science and technology. Thus, Alice Walker finds a place along with Alan Turing and Stephen Hawking.

The bulk of the entries come, as ever, from the literary world. Even so, the current editor, the biographer Justin Kaplan, concedes that the ground rules are changing. In the age of the mass media, sound bites and shrinking attention spans, traditional sources are in retreat. Politicians speak in captions that leave no room for elegant, Lincoln-esque rhetoric, and public speakers are increasingly afraid of being labelled "elitist".

In his preface Kaplan cites a weekly newsletter distributed to professional speechwriters, which advises them to drop "all cultural references and quotations from the past". No speaker, it continued, should quote the likes of Eliot, Camus, Dylan Thomas or Kafka: "If you even MENTION these writers you lay yourself open to ridicule. The businessman who will quote Mallarmé or Rimbaud is capable of anything."

That sounds almost like a classic quotation in the making. If so, it will presumably find its way into the data bank run by Nigel Rees, the presenter of the long-running Radio 4 quiz *Quote... Unquote*. Rees, who is working on his own dictionary (to be published by Chambers next March) issues a

quarterly newsletter inviting subscribers to submit queries. One of their current preoccupations is trying to establish whether it really was the 18th-century wit Lord Chesterfield who declared, on the subject of sex: "The pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous, and the expense damnable." Rees suspects that the aphorism has French origins.

Kaplan, meanwhile, is still trying to pin down the source of that favourite of civil servants the world over: "God is in the details". Flaubert has long been the prime suspect, but nobody has come up with clear evidence so far. Any answers?

● The new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations is published on October 29 at £25

Whose writing is worth a Whitbread?

SCARCELY have the plates been cleared from the tables at the Booker Prize dinner than that other annual literary joust, the Whitbread Book of the Year, rolls out its barrel. Its shortlist of 19 books, competing in five categories, was announced yesterday.

An unusually strong First Novel list may attract most interest. Robert Harris's "If Hitler had won the war" thriller, *Fatherland* — already a bestseller for the former *Sunday Times* columnist — could be run close by Adam Thorpe's much admired *Uxton*, which casts an ironic light on 300 years of English history as seen through the eyes of succeeding generations in a

ARTS BRIEFING

fictional Berkshire village. Mark Goodman's *On Bended Knees* and Jeff Torrington's *Gorbals* fantasy, *Swing Hammer Swing!* are also in the reckoning.

Competition in the Novel category is between Beryl Bainbridge's *The Birthday Boys*, Robert McLiam Wilson's *Manfred's Pain* — a sombre examination of post-Holocaust trauma in the marriage of two British Jews — and two novels in the fashionable historical-fantasy mould: Alasdair Gray's *Poor Things* and Dan Jacobson's *The God-Fearer*. Ray Apps, Gillian Cross, Peter Dickinson and Robert Westall compete for the Children's Novel prize (which had a larger entry than ever before), and the short-listed poets are Simon Armitage, Glyn Maxwell and Tony Harrison — the last-named perhaps benefiting from his recent prominence on television and at the National Theatre.

But the hardest category to judge may be the biographies, all weighty tomes on literary subjects. Victoria Glendinning's "feminine view" of Trollope, Norman White's far from hagiographic account of Gerard



Winners? Glendinning, Harris (top); Harrison, Bainbridge

Manley Hopkins, and Charles Nicholls's *The Reckoning*, *The Murder of Christopher Marlowe*, are all in the running, as is Claire Clairmont and the Shelleys: an account by Robert Gittings and Jo Manton of Mary Shelley's formidable step-sister, who had Byron's child. A tough one to call, but smart literary money is backing Nicholls's imaginative reconstruction of the murky world of Elizabethan espionage to outshine the more sedate 19th-century studies.

Winners in each category are announced on November 19, and one of them will go on to pick up the big award, £20,500, in January. Or at least it will if the Whitbread judges prove more decisive than the Bookers.

● PETER BROOK, working in tandem with the Paris Opéra, is about to deconstruct another fam-

ous opera. His celebrated version of *Carmen* ten years ago is to be followed by an adaptation of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, opening in Paris next month, and coming to Brook's favourite British venue, the Tramway in Glasgow, next year.

Impressions de Pelléas will be a concentrated version of the opera, lasting just 100 minutes. Brook says mysteriously that he has tried to capture "the secret world that is whispered about between the words". The music has been adapted for two pianos, and Brook is applying his usual, dangerous rules to the casting: the central roles will all be taken by different singers on different nights.

British baton

AFTER 35 years of solid Teutonic control, one of Britain's most

distinguished choirs, the Philharmonia Chorus, has appointed its first ever British chorus master. He is David Hill, the organist at Winchester Cathedral. Hill has made something of a speciality of breaking musical moulds. In 1982 he was made the organist of Westminster Cathedral: a remarkable appointment because he is an Anglican, not a Roman Catholic.

● THAT glitzy American musical *Grand Hotel* has come and very nearly gone from the killing field which we call the West End. So what hope for Larry Gelbart and Cy Coleman's *City of Angels*? That, too, opened on Broadway three years ago, and was rated the better musical by most critics. Now Roger Berlind, one of its original New York producers, has arranged for the British impresario Robert Fox to present it at the Prince of Wales in March.

The casting, says Fox, has yet to be settled, but the director will be Michael Blakemore. It was his skill at handling the overlapping stories — screenwriter living out Bogart fantasies — that was largely responsible for *City* winning its clutch of Tony Awards, including best musical for 1989-90.

Last chance...

INSTEAD of canvas, Zola Lagerkrans paints on 22-carat gold. The 89-year-old Russian artist learnt the technique from her second teacher, Foujita, the Japanese artist, who painted on a silver background. Her first teacher had been Wassily Kandinsky, who taught at the Academy of Arts in Moscow before the Revolution. "When I arrived in his classroom he would not let me paint," said Lagerkrans in London this week. "He said I had to look at my subject for two days, until it was part of me. He always painted to music; now I never paint without music." Her work is on show for the first time in Britain at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1, until Friday.

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Going on the offensive for the truth

Kenneth Griffith has, at the third attempt, brought to television his view of the root of the Irish question. Ros Drinkwater reports

Kenneth Griffith wants to be one of his favourite themes: "99.999 per cent of British people haven't got a clue as to what lies at the root of the Irish question. Every time the IRA strikes mainland Britain someone asks 'why, oh why?' For 20 years I've been trying to communicate exactly why. Now, finally, I may have my say."

The nub lies in the last sentence: Griffith, the Welsh actor turned film-maker, must be one of the most suppressed documentary makers of our time. While praise has been heaped on his documentaries with subjects as diverse as Tom Paine, Napoleon and Edmund Kean, his two attempts to address the Irish question have never reached the small screen.

The first, a life of Michael Collins, was suppressed by the IRA. The second, recollections of the Easter Rising by nine elderly Irish Republicans, was withdrawn by its makers, HTV, and sold to Griffith for £1 on condition he did not reveal their involvement. Now, remarkably, BBC 2 has commissioned a third, scheduled to be shown in the *Timewatch* series on October 28. In Griffith's opinion it is the hardest hitting of all.

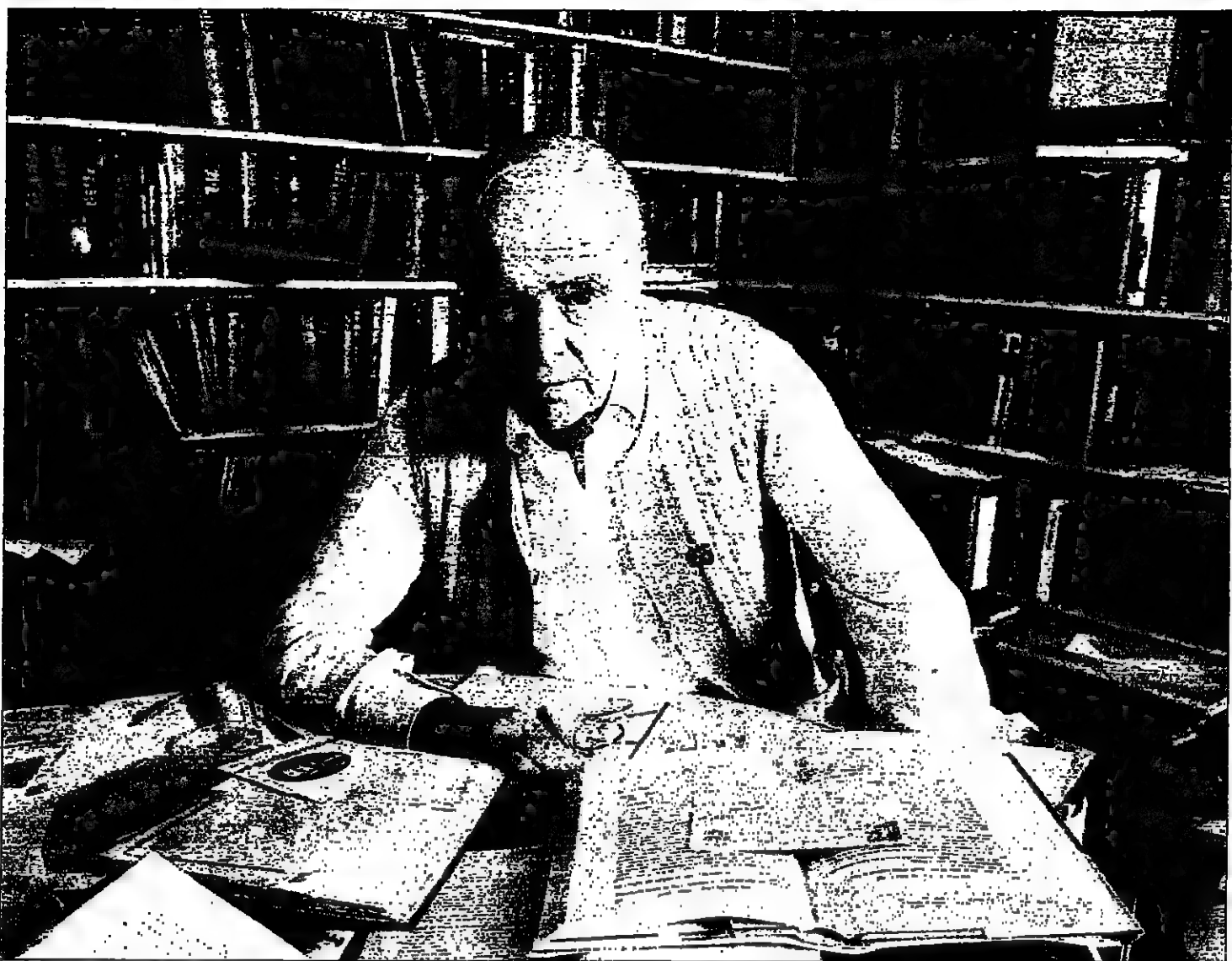
Heart of Darkness tells the story of Roger Casement, Irish Protestant and British consul, knighted for his humanitarian work in Africa and South America where his exposure of atrocities perpetrated on the native populations led to a worldwide outcry. For reasons of political expediency, and in the interests of future trade, little was done to ease the suffering. In despair, Casement

turned his focus to the plight of his own people, which he described as "the cataclysmic suffering endured by the Irish at the hands of the English for 800 years" and in doing so sealed his fate. For his involvement with the Irish Republican cause he was tried and executed for treason in 1916.

Timewatch editor Roy Davies had hoped to show the new film back to back with the life of Michael Collins, which he describes as a totally committed piece of reportage. Difficulties with rights and scheduling prevented this. "Kenneth brings a dimension no other film-maker is capable of," says Davies. "He is driven by a compulsion to tell unpalatable truths — even to those who do not wish to hear them."

Griffith's outspokenness is not confined to Ireland. Over the past 40 years he has managed to offend almost every shade of political opinion. In 1952, as an actor touring South Africa with the Old Vic, he was the first foreigner to be expelled from that country for his anti-apartheid views. He returned in 1966 when Huw Wheldon and David Attenborough (who was then the head of BBC 2) persuaded him to make a series of films on his "enthusiasms". Griffith was reluctant, telling them he was an actor, not a film-maker or writer. "We'll pay you to try," was their reply. His first film was about the Siege of Ladysmith. So began the series of documentaries which were to take over his life.

His third film was the Collins. His fourth, a life of Baden Powell, was stopped halfway through shooting by the ACTT's refusal to allow its



Kenneth Griffith: "I've been accused of being a Marxist, a fascist, a traitor and, probably worst in most people's eyes, inconsistent"

members to film in South Africa. Griffith's riposte was an often hilarious documentary, *The Public's Right To Know*, an examination of why the two films had failed to reach the screen.

Other casualties along the way include a life of Nehru and a film on the Untouchables, both banned by the Indian government. A film on Paul Kruger was halted when the South African authorities decided the time had come to put the past behind them and offered President de Klerk as an alternative subject. Griffith declined.

If ever a film was destined for censorship this was it — for, despite Griffith's deep sympathy for the

Afrikaner cause, he does not believe de Klerk has any intention of ever handing over power to the ANC, and he would certainly have said so in the film.

"In my time I've been accused of being a Marxist, a fascist, a traitor and, probably worst in most people's eyes, inconsistent. I was a radical socialist. I'm now a radical Tory. It has been a very painful journey."

What is consistent is his belief that the problems of today can only be solved through an understanding of the history that caused them. "I thought I was safe in sticking to historical fact. In 20 odd films no one has ever accused me of an inaccuracy." And he laughs, amused at his own naivety.

"The most heretical statement I

can make is that the progress being made at the Anglo-Irish talks is primarily because of the activities of the IRA," he says.

The chicanery of the six counties must be ended. They [Irish Protestants] must digest one basic fact, that the British put them there, and when a liberal government, personified by Gladstone, tried to give Ireland home rule, it was defeated by those with a vested interest."

He is aware that in certain quarters he could be seen as a legitimate target. "That doesn't worry me. What does is the thought that on my deathbed I would have reason to ask myself: why didn't I speak out?"

At 71, Griffith has the energy of a man half his age. Recently, after

lecturing the pupils of a public school, he was asked by a member of the audience if he had now exhausted the subjects he wished to tackle. Griffith could barely conceal his amusement. Future projects include films on Nelson ("I've been accused of being unpatriotic so often, this may redress the balance"), Gladstone and Albert Schweitzer.

On stage he is committed to play *Shylock* and the fool to Peter O'Toole's Lear, and he is presently researching an esoteric history of the Boer War postal service, a book he confidently predicts will appeal to an audience of 300. Long may his enthusiasms last.

Heart of Darkness is scheduled to be broadcast in the *Timewatch* slot on BBC 2 at 8.10pm on October 28

Smiles despite it all

Bob Geldof
UEA, Norwich

Geldof's Law states that being famous for a whole range of things is no guarantee of success in any one thing. July 13, 1985 Live Aid — may have changed Bob Geldof's life, but it seems to have done little for his day job. His current tour has been dogged by reports of slow ticket sales and cancelled concerts. This was a determinedly cheery show.

The stage had a garish backdrop of giant daisies, with "The Happy Club" (also the title of the new album) picked out across it erratically in lights. The torn vests and loud shirts of the six-piece band added to the impression of faded glory, while Geldof stood tacitly resplendent in a suit of the same floral pattern as the set.

Disdaining some of his more explicitly political songs, Geldof seemed bent upon grinning through a show that was as restlessly paced as *The Big Breakfast*. Celtic jigs ("Too Late God") cut to pub rock



Geldof: barbed banter

("Let it Go") and back to a glitter pop ("Love Or Something"). Alun Dunne's accordion and Geoff Richardson's violin jollied the band like early-morning presenters.

Strangely, for someone who is one of rock's "characters", his music lacked any truly distinctive personality. It was only in his jokey, barbed banter and a dancing style which would be the envy of any young ostrich that he really revealed himself. Otherwise, it was hard not to keep hearing other performers: Bob Dylan most obviously, but touches of Van Morrison and, on "Room 19", the Monkees.

Part of the problem is Geldof's unshakable voice; partly it is his love of words: there is less room for the melody when you have so much to say. It seems sad that his best singing was reserved for the oldest songs, both his from his days with the Boomtown Rats, "I Don't Like Mondays" and "Rat Trap".

JOHN STREET

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale is unpleasantly surprised by a joyless and peculiarly heavy-handed production of a Restoration comedy



Lady Wishfort (Sheila Hancock): tricked and humiliated

Don't mince, but keep the swagger

Nobody still thinks that characters in Restoration comedies should mince and prink about the stage fluttering their fans and emitting tiny trills of "la, sir". A modicum of reality, psychological and social, has been taken for granted since at least 1963, when William Gaskill read Farguhar's *Recruiting Officer* from terminal artificiality. But there is a danger here, especially when a director with strong moral convictions of his own is staging Wycherley, or Congreve, or one of the sharper Restoration wits; and that is a loss of fun. For all the production's merits, there were times at Peter Gill's *Way of the World* when I wondered if the Puritans, not King Charles's men, had emerged triumphant in 1660.

Never before had I realised quite how badly Congreve's people behave. No wonder Emma Piper's Mrs Fainall looks so forlorn for most of the evening, and so stricken at what's supposed to be a happy

The Way of the World
Lyric, Hammersmith

ending. When he thought he had got her pregnant, the glamorous Mirabell pushed her into a cold, brusque march with the fortune-hunting Fainall; and now she has to watch with a smile while the only man she seems ever to have loved prepares to marry her cousin Millamant. No wonder, either, that her mother, Sheila Hancock's Lady Wishfort, looks so injured. She has been courted, tricked and humiliated; and once again Mirabell is responsible.

A newspaper cutting just inside the Lyric's foyer quotes Gill to the effect such coverings are "relevant" to our own fickle, fraudulent and corrupt London. So they may be. But here is the problem. Today, Mirabell's treatment of his mistress and her trusting,

credulous mother would undoubtedly qualify him for the final rounds in the cad-of-the-year competition at White's Club. Yet he is the play's hero and, in Congreve's view, no worse than a bit of a lad. So he seeks to embarrass, and then blackmail, Lady Wishfort by making her fall for a servant he has disguised as a titled wooer. That is the way love-lorn ladies of a certain age are treated by bright sparks in Restoration comedies.

The obvious answer to this conundrum — this undeclared war between Congreve and modern morality, if you like — is simply not to play the hero, his victims, or *The Way of the World* itself too seriously. And, to be fair, Jeremy Northam's Mirabell himself is no more than a detached, urbane ironist: a bit cavalier with others' feelings where his own interests are concerned, perhaps, but hardly as voracious as Jonathan Phillips's Fainall, a very bitter, angry, go-getting sort. Yet he and those around

him generate less laughter than they might.

Why does the famous scene in which Mirabell and Millamant warily edge towards an understanding fall so relatively flat here? Perhaps because in Barbara Flynn we have a leading actress who is effective enough at forthrightly standing up to domineering males, but has little of the wit and waywardness that the role demands. Again, Hancock's Lady Wishfort has her moments, for instance when she is looking at herself in a mirror and comparing herself to an old, peeling wall in a voice that

somehow combines the coy, the blasé and the agnostic. But should she go quite so far in suggesting that beneath the comic crone a vulnerable 17-year-old is still yearning for affection?

The strengths of Gill's production are clarity and sensitivity to the sexism and cruelty on show in the play. The weaknesses are austerity and the same sensitivity to the same issues. Where are the playfulness, the gaiety, the fun? They surface at moments, but not in the abundance either Congreve or his modern audiences would presumably wish.

DANCE: John Percival reviews Birmingham Royal Ballet

Either of Birmingham Royal Ballet's latest premieres, presented at BRB's home, the Hippodrome, would have been a cause for rejoicing: together, they provide a marvellous demonstration of the range of excellence achieved by dance in this century. Created one on each side of the second world war, they respectively offer a dreadful premonition of horror to come, and a celebration of the human spirit triumphant over adversity. Neither of them has lost any of its power or relevance over the decades: quite the opposite.

Kurt Jooss in 1932 subtitled *The Green Table* "a dance of death", but the figure of Death (which he used to dance, a role taken, powerfully and sympathetically in this revival, by Joseph Cipolla), although austere and sometimes frightening, is not the villain of the piece. Indeed, his embrace comes as a consoling relief to some of the characters: the mother (Marion Tait) weary of life, the girl (Mikaela Polley) forced into a brothel.

Two of finest quality

The Green Table
Hippodrome

reography and F.A. Cohen's sinuous, catchy two-piece score have the qualities of the best poster art: strong, simple, surprising, unforgettable.

Anna Markard, Jooss's daughter, has staged the ballet with insight as well as accuracy. The women (including, besides those already mentioned, Karen Waldie as the partisan), are excellent; perhaps a little more age and weight among the men would not come amiss, but Vincent Redmon's sly, cunning, insinuating portrait of the profiteer is as apt and sharply focused as Cipolla's Death.

Ninette de Valois wanted this work in the Forbices for the newly-formed company at Sadler's Wells which has since grown into BRB, but Jooss at that time refused: he wanted to do a new work instead.

Ashton's *Symphonic Variations* was then new in the repertoire at Covent Garden, still with its amazing original

line-up of three young ballerinas, all still in their twenties: Margot Fonteyn, Pamela May, and Moira Shearer.

Two Americans, Cynthia Harvey and Jay Jolley, stood out in the last Covent Garden revival, and a new recruit from America, Rachel Peppin, is the brightest, crispest, juiciest of the dancers in the new Birmingham production. The other women, Sherry Kennedy and Susan Lucas, bring a gentle manner and nice fluency to their roles. Kevin O'Hare, David Bailey, and especially, Vincent Redmon do decently by the male roles.

Michael Somes, Fonteyn's partner at the ballet's 1946 premiere, and a stalwart custodian of Ashton's style, has staged this revival. One could quibble over details (the head-dresses look heavier, the women smile too soon and too much; and the beautiful carriage of arms and shoulders visible in photographs of the original cast are probably past recall). But this is a clear, loving, and truthful restoration of a master work that ought never to have gone so long unseen.

MUSIC: Hilary Finch on a fiery premiere

Firework night

BBC SO/Davis
Festival Hall

AN EXPLOSIVE confrontation between teacher and pupil took place at the Festival Hall on Sunday night. In fact, there was little short of spontaneous combustion when Joanne MacGregor hurled herself at the Piano Concerto of her teacher, Hugh Wood, and gave it a memorable performance with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Davis.

The composer has stated that he wanted to put something of MacGregor's personality into this "brash and extrovert" work. The concerto, though, says as much about him as his pupil. Wood is as outspoken musically as he can be verbally. I remember a public lecture in which he referred to a colleague, who had expressed a degree of reservation about one of his works, as "a pile of steaming horse turds".

Punches are packed by the fact that swaggering jazz references are absorbed in the tightest of classical, even academic, musical forms. And an abrasive use of 12-note melody is tamed by a central set of oblique variations on "Sweet Lorraine" (a song popularised by Nat King Cole).

The other movements go straight for the extremes of volume, texture and pitch within seconds of their existence. Propelled by an under-

lying thrumming from keyboard and strings, the recharging of energy is so rivetingly maintained that it would be easy to miss the sudden beauty of fragments of melody embedded in the music's flinty surface.

But the slow movement is the wonder of this work. A Webern-like crystal of notes grows from the pianist's hands. Brushed by string harmonics and whispering glissandos it turns into a minutely controlled mosaic of thought and sound as its variations progress. This was an outstanding performance of a mastery work.

Wood's concerto flourished in the context of the evening's programme. Following its "British line" and also its tributary of English themes and variations, the BBC SO started by working its way through Delius's English rhapsody, *Brigg Fair*, and ended with Elgar's Symphony No 1, a grand musical apotheosis of its own original idea.

The Elgar lies deep under the skin of both Andrew Davis and the BBC SO: this was one of their finest and most buoyant performances of the work to date.

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MOTOR SHOW

Rolling on, fitter than expected

Britain's car industry is showing unsuspected strength. Kevin Eason reports from the annual showcase

Inspector Morse would find the case of the British car business baffling. The recession has inflicted such pain on the motor industry over the past three years that the classic-car-driving television detective might expect to find only the corpse of the industry stretched throughout the vast halls of the NEC.

Soaring interest rates, inflation and plummeting sales should have battered the life from Britain's biggest manufacturing sector. But the body was finer than anyone suspected and has proved remarkably resilient to the bruising of the past three years.

Visitors to the show will find a glitzy and confident industry. Sales people will staff stands stacked with new models, from sleeker saloons to exciting sports cars, in a show of strength more important than at any time in the industry's recent history.

Rover is showing a bevy of new cars, from its stunning 150mph coupé to the reborn MG, a V8-engined two-seater sports.

There are new Escorts and Orions from Ford, as well as two daring concept cars, re-

tailored Vauxhalls and the latest models from Japanese makers in Britain.

Toyota is showing the Carina, from the assembly lines of its £700 million Derbyshire plant, while Nissan is bringing its new baby Micra car to stand alongside the Primera model, both made in Tyne & Wear.

Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce's chairman, was on the stand yesterday as head of a company on the ropes, pummeled by the "double whammy" of recession in its two biggest markets, which will cut annual sales from a record 3,300, to possibly 1,500 this year. Yet Rolls-Royce is displaying two new cars. It might seem folly to show off a £90,000 entry-level Bentley for the newcomer to the Rolls-Royce range and a new Corniche convertible at £171,000, but the company took orders for 14 cars worth £1.75 million at the Paris and Berlin shows. And it has just sold four Rolls-Royces in Russia, a market with huge potential.

Rolls-Royce had to reduce the workforce at its Crewe factory in Cheshire from more than 5,000 two years ago to 2,100, but the cuts mean the



Niche marketing: Rolls-Royce will exhibit a "limited edition" convertible based on the Corniche IV. Cost: £171,000

company's break-even point is reduced to sales of about 1,400 cars a year.

John Bodie, the company's head of public affairs, who will spend the next few days shaking hands with potential

customers from all over the world, says: "It has been a painful time. But nobody should underestimate the strength of British car manufacturers such as Rolls-Royce. We have had to endure condi-

tions the like of which nobody can remember — a war in the Gulf which hit Middle East markets, and recessions in the US and the UK, which between them account for 60 per cent of our sales."

That dogged determination is reflected at other companies, where executives privately seethe at the publicity given to foreign rivals at the expense, as they see it, of British products. Geoffrey Whalen, Peugeot

THE SHOW at the NEC opens to the public on Saturday, after three days set aside for the motor trade. The doors open daily until October 31 from 9.30am until 7pm: admission £7 for adults and £3.50 for accompanied children and pensioners. Opening times on the final day, November 1, are 9.30am to 5.30pm

Talbot's managing director, says: "I get angry when we seem to forget the enormous strides that have been made in this industry. Twenty years ago, there would be no doubt that the quality of British cars was not high, especially when they were compared with products from Japan."

"That is not true today. Peugeot makes 405s in Coventry, 70 per cent of which are exported. One in three of the 405s on Paris streets will have been made not in France but in Coventry, which shows we can match anyone for productivity and quality."

"The problem is that I suspect few people appreciate that the Peugeot 405, made in Britain by British workers, is a British success story."

More than half the cars sold in the UK are imported, yet for the first time in 20 years the foreign car makes find themselves under pressure. The devaluation of sterling on Black Wednesday, September 16, had the accountants reaching for their calculators because in simple terms, foreign cars are more expensive here while

British cars are cheaper abroad.

The first rash of price rises is already breaking out among importers unable and unprepared to bear the total cost of a devaluation that BMW calculates could put between 12 and 14 per cent on the price of a car from Germany.

The reversal will not stop them bringing cars to Birmingham, which shows that investment in new products moves at a pace in the motor industry that is virtually unmatched elsewhere.

Honda, for example, is showing a car that contains features to come in the models of the near future. As well as a 140mph top speed, its Prelude VTEC has anti-lock brakes, electronic four-wheel steering, driver and passenger airbags, side-door impact beams and a high-rigidity body frame.

The recession is not going away, but the exhibition at Birmingham gives car makers time to take a deep breath and forget about the problems of the present and look forward to the prospect of a brighter future.



Hitting back: Sir Hal Miller

FOR A business at the forefront of technological progress and industrial relations change, the motor industry is sometimes hopeless at promoting itself. When the government might have been sheltering the nation's biggest single manufacturing industry, the Chancellor was hammering it with more taxes.

Under attack from the environmental lobby for polluting the atmosphere and congesting roads, and from consumers for high prices, the industry has been on the run for the past five years.

Sir Hal Miller, the chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, believes that the time has come for car and component makers to

An industry gears up to fight back

start hitting back. Sir Hal was appointed this year to put a shine on the tarnished image of the car. As Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, he lived for 18 years with the problems of the motor industry: Rover's Longbridge plant was on his political doorstep.

About 850,000 people in Britain rely on vehicle manufacturing for a livelihood, not just those working on the assembly lines but others in small component suppliers, and even those serving at petrol stations.

Here was a huge business

somewhat unable to make its voice heard in Parliament, to the extent that the 1991 Budget was virtually a disaster for the industry. Increases in company car taxation helped to block many orders from business.

Sir Hal organised a meeting between the heads of the nation's four biggest manufacturers and Norman Lamont. This was the start of the industry's rehabilitation.

The society's offices have the air of a discreet gentleman's club, set in a period building in a

fashionable street behind Buckingham Palace.

Critics contend that the society has been a little too gentlemanly in protecting the industry. Sir Hal, however, plans to drag the business to the top of the agenda to ensure that politicians and public appreciate the strengths of motor makers.

"It is a magnificent industry," he says. "The pace of its technological change is breathtaking and its training and employee relations are moving quicker than almost anyone else's. Investment

is enormous. "There is no point in continually kicking the car industry. There are problems, certainly, but it is time we told people that here is an industry that is vital to the British economy and the way of life of its people."

His message will be reinforced at the motor show, reorganised to avoid the stultifying rows of cars, vans and trucks that have sent millions home footsore and weary. The Birmingham show has struggled to capture the imagination of the European industry in the same way as Geneva, Paris or

Frankfurt to take its place as one of the prestige exhibitions.

This year will be different, according to Sir Hal, who has brought in Tony Ball, the man who launched the Metro for BL 12 years ago, to revamp the show. In, for example, comes an ideal homes exhibition, which means that, for the first time, families will be able to go for a day out to the NEC, instead of manufacturers relying on hardened car buffs to provide the support.

About 450,000 people are expected over the ten days of this year's show, but Mr Ball believes that number can be doubled if the industry markets itself properly.

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Dr. V. J. K. S. D.

Ferrari, Aston Martin, MG. Eric Dymock picks out some showstoppers

Eager youngsters, like those who crowded around the MGB at the Earls Court motor show in 1962, may once again be craning to glimpse an MG at the NEC. The MG RV8 that is the centre of attraction in Birmingham inherits not just the charisma, but many component parts of the car that quickened the step of enthusiasts 30 years ago.

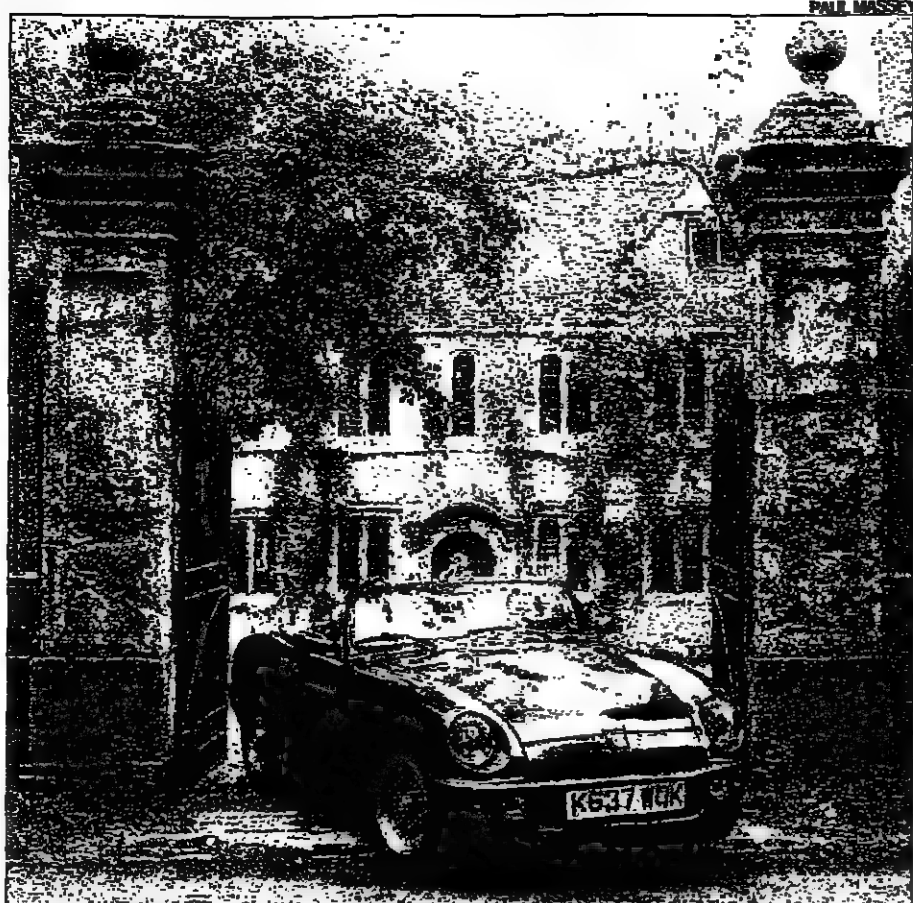
Hearts that raced at the thought of four cylinders, 1.8 litres and 95bhp, may be overwhelmed by 8 cylinders, 3.9 litres and 190bhp. The top speed of the RV8 is 135mph, against about 103mph in 1962. Acceleration is 0-60mph in under six seconds, half the time it took when the clean lines and fine proportions of the MGB first appeared.

The smart two-seater may, however, be as far out of reach for many of its admirers today as it was 30 years ago. At £26,500, it is probably just as unattainable as its forerunner, which cost £934 6s 3d in 1962.

The RV8 marks the beginning of MG's plans to return to the market. Three further models, not based on retrospective designs like the MGB, are fully engineered and ready to go into production the moment the car market picks up. It would take two full years from the go-ahead, bringing Rover Group back to the niche marketing of quality premium-priced cars, at which it proved so adept between 1930 and 1975.

The Ferrari 512TR and 456GT exemplify the changes that are under way at Maranello. Luca di Montezemolo, the 45-year-old Italian aristocrat who took over as president following the death of Enzo Ferrari, plans to make the firm more user-friendly. "We will preserve the flavour, the feel of Ferrari," he says.

The 512TR replaces the Testarossa and has less of the harsh feel of a racing car. Signore Montezemolo instructed his engineers to refine it after trying rivals such as the Honda NSX and Mercedes-Benz SL. Ferrari traditionalists need not worry, however. All the established Ferrari features



Nostalgic appeal: the MG RV8 is ready to attract a new generation of devotees, although at £26,500 it will be beyond the pocket of many

Star attractions take to the floor

remain, including the gear-shift gate, a relic of the days of crash boxes when it acted as a guide for the lever.

Production of the front-engined Ferrari 456GT starts next year. The 186mph model is expected to cost about £150,000 when it goes on sale in Britain.

Purifarina has taken styling cues from the classic Daytona for the flagship of the Ferrari range. A luxury V-12-engined model has been an alternative to Ferrari's sports cars since they changed to

mid-engines in the 1960s. The Aston Martin Vantage, introduced yesterday, goes into production next year, the 80th anniversary of

We will preserve the flavour, the feel of Ferrari

the founding of the firm by Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford. Walter Hayes, Aston Martin's executive chairman, describes the supercharged 550bhp car as a sports car classic. "There is a

special place in the market for the authentic sports car," he says. "An Aston Martin is expected to deliver performance and the Vantage will out-perform all but the most exotic road cars, yet it is user-friendly in every respect."

Only the door skins and the roof panel are carried over from the Virage, which remains in production. The engine is a 5.3 litre four-valve V8 with twin superchargers, giving the car a top speed, in theory, of 186mph. The turnround in Rover

fortunes has been one of the motor industry success stories of the 1990s, celebrated by a clutch of new models introduced this year, including the splendid 800 coupé, introduced at Geneva in the spring. The 200 coupé and 400 saloons, introduced this week, widen the Rover range still further, filling new niches and appealing to new groups of owners looking for Japanese reliability and British style.

The nostalgic flavour of the MG may be matched for some by the retrospective charm of Jeep. It was the result of a 1940 United States army specification for a light reconnaissance vehicle to carry three men and a 7.6mm machine gun, with a wheelbase of 80in, a track of 47in, four wheel drive, and light enough to be manhandled.

The quarter-tonne, 4x4 general purpose (GP) jeep served on every battlefield with almost every army. Captured jeeps were prized even by the Wehrmacht. By the end of the war, Ford had made 278,000, Willys 361,000, and a prototype was created for 4x4 utility vehicles for the leisure and recreational market.

The new Jeep is one of those, and although much bigger and heavier nowadays, and unlikely to be manhandled, it is well equipped and promises to be competitively priced. The first Land Rovers were based on war-surplus jeeps; it remains to be seen how they fare in competition.

The new Lexus will bear study. It has proved a pace-setter in luxury-car quietness and refinement and its influence extends beyond the relatively small numbers sold in the UK. Its calmness has given luxury car makers from Rolls-Royce downwards a new aiming point even if its styling has been wooden.

Mercedes-Benz is unveiling its new 600SL, the six-litre V-12 395bhp version of the successful sports range. Now may not seem quite the time for such conspicuous extravagance, but judging by the high proportion of V-8 and V-12 engines that S-class saloon customers buy, the nation is not yet in such penny that it will pass up a classic.

French invaders outstrip the Japanese

The company that makes Citroëns and Peugeots has been quietly building up its share of the UK market

The conversation steps up a gear when Jacques Calvet talks about the gradual takeover of the European car market by the Japanese. This is a long-running theme in the repertoire of the chairman of the PSA Peugeot-Citroën conglomerate. Show him a Japanese car and there follow at least 15 minutes on why Europe should be restricting its entry into the single market.

His theory is simple: the UK has allowed three leading Japanese manufacturers to enter the country and make cars that will flood into Europe and eventually steal sales from the home industry. Yet M Calvet has proved just as adept at overseas investment in the UK as any Japanese manufacturer. Peugeot-Citroën is booming in Britain. While the recession has eroded the sales of almost every manufacturer in the UK, the fortunes of PSA have gone from strength to strength. At one point this year, combined Peugeot and Citroën sales were higher than Rover's, making PSA the third biggest force in the land, ahead of any German or Japanese competition.

After nine months of this year, Citroën is taking a record 4.11 per cent share of the market while Peugeot is looking for records of its own with 8.01 per cent. The combined 12.12 per cent market share has PSA nudging the leaders, Ford and Vauxhall, for attention.

Eight years ago this position was unimaginable. When the French bought out the old Chrysler Business in the UK, the former Rootes Group, it was in a state of collapse under the weight of union disputes and inefficiency.

Peugeot at that time played only a small part in the UK market with a share of new car sales of 1.9 per cent. The French inherited the Chrysler

range, worth another 2 per cent, and a gloomy, old factory on the outskirts of Coventry.

The deal seemed unlikely stuff for success. However, the PSA group has managed a remarkable turnaround, particularly in the operations at Ryton, Coventry.

Ryton is a microcosm of PSA's quiet, unspectacular yet steady progress. The group chose Geoffrey Whalen, one of the UK industry's most respected figures, to run the business. Mr Whalen's style is quiet yet respectful of a



Jacques Calvet: an adept investor

workforce that has had to raise efficiency without the benefit of the high-technology robotics which have invaded most of the other companies.

Productivity has soared — up 30 per cent in three years — and is targeted to continue to increase by 10 per cent every year. Yet investment in Ryton has been relatively low, probably about £100 million in all. The trick has been to make the best of what is available, mainly the potential of a workforce of 6,500 people who have done it their way instead of the Japanese way.

The efficiency gains underpinned by the substantial foothold in the UK market have encouraged M Calvet to sanction the building of a second

model, a small city car, at Ryton. The factory makes the 405 saloon, a bestseller in the UK. Seventy per cent of the output is exported to France. With the new car on stream, capacity could double to about 200,000 cars a year, putting the factory on the same scale of output as Japanese firms in the UK.

PSA's rapid growth, however, has gone largely unnoticed, unlike that of the Japanese. The irony is not lost on M Calvet. His berating of the Japanese might have become simply irritating had he not been among the leaders in making the company face the challenge.

PSA has been transformed from a lumbering giant of a business with its feet firmly planted in France, where it relied on domestic customers to survive, to a company making cars that the whole of Europe wants. The revitalised PSA is pushing for European supremacy alongside GM and Fiat. The multinational Volkswagen-Audi-Seat combine retains the lead. New cars have come thick and fast in the past two years, but if there has been one simple

stroke of luck, it has been the gradual switch to diesel. Peugeot is the world's biggest manufacturer of diesel engines, thanks to its broad base in France where 40 per cent of new cars are diesel-powered. The firm even supplies Rover with its diesel engines.

In the UK, the switch from petrol to the more environmentally friendly and economical diesel has gained momentum. Diesel has moved from a lowly share of 3 per cent to almost 12 per cent. As a result, the fortunes of Peugeot-Citroën have changed dramatically. The change has made PSA an unexpected force in the British marketplace.

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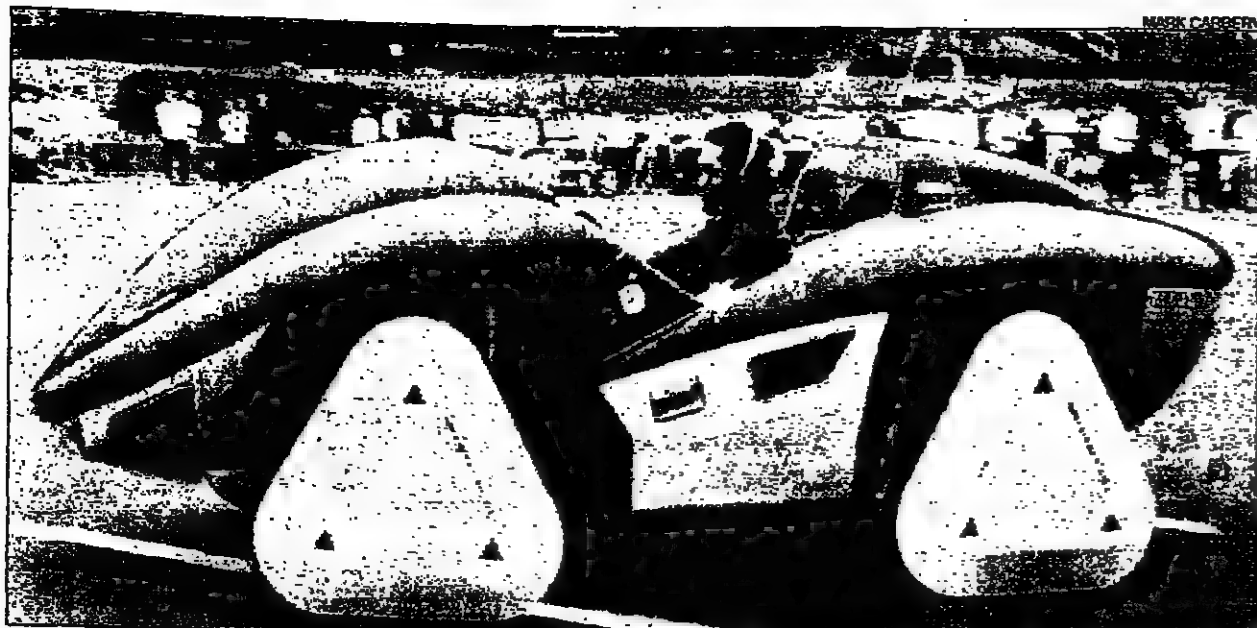
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The un-wheel thing: Toyota's Delta Bug ideas car tries a new way of roadholding — but it is unlikely to catch on

Look, no wheels

Vaughan Freeman on the cars that rewrite the rules of design

They look as if they have been built out of BacoFoil from Dan Dare comic design with not even the thinnest of footholds on reality. Some jump, some have triangular wheels and others have more in common with a child's truck-toy than the M25. They are the concept vehicles, the drawing-board dreams that designers and engineers hope will be the on-road reality of tomorrow.

Such studies bridge the gap between the fantastic and the real, putting steel, aluminium and plastic flesh on the bones of the designer's drawings.

Car innovation is an organic process as cars develop and evolve continuously, often leading to areas seemingly unrelated to the automobile.

At this year's show, the concept cars include half a dozen barmy ideas from Toyota. They are the result of the company's annual competition for designs that are totally impractical and lots of fun. Even so, they include elements that show the direction in which mainstream car design is moving.

There is the Delta Bug, which re-invents the wheel and makes it triangular. The Hazumi has three legs and jumps, the Breather runs on oxygen and is non-polluting, while the SunSeeker uses solar energy to wind up giant, elastic bands which in turn drive the wheels. The Skyliner is half-car, half-tram. Outriggers housing the wheels fold up to convert it from road-going car to mono-rail "podule".

These examples take concept into the realms of fantasy, but such cars, however outlandish, are useful test-beds.

The ultimate example of the fluidity of car design perhaps is the LotusSport record-breaking bicycle, which will be among the concept vehicles on show at Birmingham. Translating concept to reality, the bicycle took Chris Boardman to a gold medal at this year's Barcelona Olympic Games. It uses lightweight materials and employs simple yet effective aerodynamics.

This showed the potential that makes concept vehicles of

value, not only as showcases of technology but as possible commercial propositions.

At motor shows throughout America in 1989, Chrysler showed off its two-seat supercar, the 180mph Viper, which will also be at Birmingham. The car was shown to give the public an idea of what Chrysler designers could do, but interest in the Viper was overwhelming and hundreds of orders were placed, although there were then no plans to produce such a car.

Chrysler found itself building the car for production and it goes on sale in Britain next year, having taken only three years from concept to the showroom. BMW, Daihatsu, Fiat and Ford, Reliant, Subaru and Chrysler all hope their concept offerings at Birmingham will capture the public imagination in the same way as the LotusSport bicycle and Chrysler's Viper have. BMW is displaying its E1 electric concept car. Most manufacturers are now working on new fuel technologies as pressure grows to develop cars that emit next to no emissions, and the E1 shows how battery power could work. The vehicle uses sodium sulphur batteries

inside an aluminium body three-door car, with a range of up to 150 miles. BMW claims a cruising speed of 45 to 50mph and a top speed of 75mph. Charging the car takes up to eight hours.

Demands to cut motoring pollution will lead, it is estimated, to seven of ten new cars sold in the year 2010 being zero-emission vehicles, hence the interest in battery power.

Ford's electric Ecostar will also be on show. Worldwide, a fleet of 200 Ecostars is now on test. Like BMW's E1, the Ecostar uses sodium sulphur batteries that give the vehicle a 100-mile range and acceleration from 0 to 50mph in 12 seconds.

American enthusiasm for electric cars is encouraged by pending Californian legislation, which, by the end of the decade, means that 2 per cent of car manufacturers' sales in America's richest state must be

zero emission cars, or the makers will face a ban on all car sales.

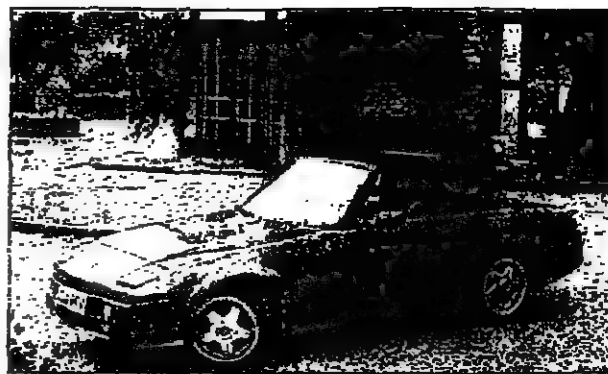
So while Ford has Ecostar, General Motors, the parent company of Vauxhall, is working on the battery-powered IMPACT, one of those futuristic-looking concepts that really does have a practical

application, despite its unlikely science-fiction looks.

How then to sum up what makes a concept car so exciting? Takeshi Masuda, who worked on Toyota designs, says: "We were more surprised than gratified when everything was completed. The vehicle actually moved."

The company with a name for three-wheelers enters a new market

Little Reliant goes sporty



Reliant coupé: a lightweight good on performance

A company whose last foray into car design was a fire-breathing monster that challenged for the world land speed record in the 1920s will unveil a new model at the motor show, hoping that the climate is now right for its "small is beautiful" philosophy and that the glitz and glamour of showtime will rub off on its order book.

The company is Beas Engineering, which has a proud pedigree in the industry and recently rescued Reliant from financial oblivion.

The Reliant stand, though one of the smaller displays, should attract considerable interest. The new model will be a small, lightweight coupé offering good performance with remarkable economy in a good-looking and rust-free body at less than £10,000.

Alongside the existing and recently revamped Scimitar Sabre open two-seater, Beas hopes this "concept car" — a technique used by the biggest makers to test the market — will attract sufficient attention to take Reliant into a new era.

Despite its reputation for dull three-wheelers, Reliant has a record of making innovative and well-designed sports cars. The luxurious 1970s Scimitar is an example, and some large companies

have used the expertise of the workforce at Tamworth, Staffordshire, for limited production runs of highly sophisticated rally cars. That expertise is now being harnessed in the new car, which will use the small but extremely light engine that Reliant has built for several years and which produces respectable performance in a lightweight body of the type that Reliant is best at building. The company will therefore use the show to restate some of

the traditions that previously earned it a following of enthusiastic owners. Chris Winter, the company's head of marketing, says: "A motor show stand is a very substantial investment for a small company such as ours, but we feel it is the best way to get our product in front of a large number of people. We find that once people have actually touched and felt the car in the flesh they become more enthusiastic and realise that this could be the right car for them."

There will, of course, be a three-wheeled Robin on the stand. Robins have a remarkably loyal following and many drivers still find that their blend of low running costs and low depreciation meets their requirements. Although three-wheelers are no cheaper than small conventional cars, they hold their value over a long period and many dealers have waiting lists for second-hand and third-hand buyers.

Reliant's new owners have their roots in Midlands engineering, having started in 1826 as A. Harper Son and Bean, making fire grates and iron shot. By the turn of the century the company was producing parts for the fledgling motor industry. In 1919 it took over production of the American Perry car, renamed the Bean after Jack Bean, who by then was running the company. The Bean was the first car built in Britain on a moving production line.

Faced with losing one of its biggest customers when Reliant went into receivership more than a year ago, Beas decided to buy the company.

Since then production and sales of the three-wheeler range have continued uninterrupted, and the new sports models take it into a potentially more profitable market.

DAVID YOUNG

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out all driving and engine conditions, they significantly improve performance and reduce exhaust emissions.

The continued development of diesel engines will provide more options for the driver. Making diesel cars and diesel fuel an even better choice for the future.

ALTHOUGH the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre is surrounded by car parking and linked to the national motorway network, the best way to visit the show is by public transport, David Young writes.

● By rail: Birmingham International station is linked to the NEC. During the show, British Rail and the organisers offer reduced-price combined fare and entrance tickets. Services operate frequently from Euston, London (80 minutes away) and from Birmingham city centre (ten minutes away).

Birmingham International Station travel centre (021-643 4444).

● By bus: many national and local coach companies are offering reduced rate combined entrance and travel tickets. West Midlands Travel will operate a frequent service to the NEC from Birmingham city centre, Solihull and central Coventry West Midlands Travel (021-236 8313).

● By taxi: there are free-phones for ordering taxis inside the entrance piazza and bookings can be made on 021 427 8888.

● By air: Birmingham airport also has frequent continental connections and daily services from Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Newcastle, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man and London.

Birmingham International Airport (021-767 5511).

● By car: the NEC has 15,000 car park spaces available, linked to the main halls by shuttle buses. The NEC lies just off the M42 motorway, which is linked to the M1, the M5 and the M40.

Check on parking availability and local road conditions with the NEC office (021 780 4141).

● NEC facilities for the disabled: all areas are accessible by wheelchair and there are lifts at all NEC escalators and at the railway station. NEC toilet blocks have good disabled toilet facilities. Parking for disabled people is available. Details: 021-780 4321.

● Accommodation: there is extensive hotel accommodation within the immediate area. The Metropole Hotel near the NEC has 807 luxury bedrooms, and an estimated 35,000 hotel rooms are within easy reach of the NEC.

In Birmingham, there are several five-star hotels, such as the Swallow, Hyatt Regency and New Hall, as well as a huge range of cheaper accommodation.

There are also country hotels within half an hour's drive of the NEC. The historic towns of Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick and the spa town of Leamington are not far away.

The Visitors Bureau (021-780 4231) in the NEC piazza can help to arrange bookings.

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Use the slump to rationalise

The recession has produced a lethargy in the property departments of many companies which could place them in difficulty when the economic upturn begins, according to the chartered surveyors St Quintin in a report to be published shortly.

A survey of the property managers of Britain's 1,000 top companies shows that three-quarters do not believe that the property recession has had a significant impact on their companies' overall financial performance. Only a quarter believe that the property downturn is impeding their business growth.

St Quintin says that the research conclusions reflect the favourable market conditions for corporate occupiers, who are seeing substantial reductions in quoted rents, as landlords attract tenants with cash contributions for fitting out and legal costs, and with "take-backs", where the landlord takes over the tenant's existing space.

The companies most affected by the property recession are those which diversified from their core business and are now in possession of highly specialised freehold or leasehold property which is difficult to dispose of or sub-let.

The research indicates that property now has a higher profile in the boardroom. Three-quarters of the respondents said that their companies regard their property portfolios as important matters to be considered at board level, while more than half believe that property has become a more significant corporate issue over the last two years.

But property management is not just about negotiations and transactions. Firms should be actively collecting and analysing information about occupancy costs, identifying opportunities for development or sale, and managing for future liabilities. St Quintin says, "Doing nothing means that companies will be ill prepared to take advantage of the next upturn."

Christopher Warman on evidence that business is neglecting its properties

Mr Bibby acknowledges that the continuing recession is making property rationalisation difficult. "But it is not impossible, and firms need to explore more creative ways of rearranging their portfolios, reducing costs and controlling liabilities such as dilapidations and reinstatement."

In the short term, companies could maximise the value of their "white elephants" — overpriced, unlettable or unsaleable properties — by filling them with staff

Property management is not just about transactions

from their more saleable premises. "Similarly, firms should consider converting freehold properties for different uses. Office space may be switched to warehouse or even residential space. Even demolition can make sense where buildings have minimal value."

Mr Bibby says the research, carried out by the Primary Agency for St Quintin's corporate services department, detects a small but encouraging trend towards recommending investment in property. At present, 15 per cent of respondents predict that they will be recommending investment, rising to 20 per cent by 1994.

The recession has undoubtedly dented confidence in property investment. A third of respondents believe the effect has been to make their companies "very cautious", while in total two-thirds indicated some degree of caution towards property investment.

Only a brave 9 per cent maintain that their companies have not adopted a more cautious approach as a result of the recession.

Almost half of the respondents believe that the upturn in the commercial property market will not come before 1994, and two-thirds think the upturn will be marked more by increased activity in the market than by rising prices. The degree of uncertainty about the timing of the upturn is demonstrated by the number of responses along the lines of "I have not got my crystal ball", while some of those surveyed refused to put any timescale on the recovery. Three-quarters believe that low prices mean that property will offer at least as much value at the end of 1993 as now.

Offering a checklist for pro-active property management to combat the present lethargy, St Quintin says that rent reviews should be vigorously contested to ensure nil increases and operational cost savings. Lease renewals should be considered carefully; better deals may be available by relocating.

Significant property bargains are available, and St Quintin argues that investment in property is now appropriate for cash-rich companies with a low asset base. In addition, companies should not overlook the option of buying the freehold on their properties: rents will increase in the long term but so will capital values.

The final advice is a prediction that demand for quality office and retail space will begin to revive by mid-1993, so "if you have surplus property, the time to prepare for that opportunity is now".

Nothing hidebound at the leatherworks...



Behind the Victorian facade of 41-43 Chilton Street, London NW1, close to Euston Station, is a complete new floor of postmodernist design, writes Christopher Warman. Formerly a leatherworks, the building has been transformed into 8,800 sq ft of offices and showrooms on two floors above a large basement. The ground floor was originally let to a furniture company, which commissioned the American architect Michael Graves. The award-winning result, his first British interior, has a series



of niches and large, arched, beams below a clerestory skylight. The rooms are in contrasting shapes, including an octagonal room with a vaulted ceiling. The building is to let, through Picher Herstman and Henderson Theilsson, at £9 a sq ft.

Ludgate scheme ready for business

ROSEHAUGH Stanhope's £400 million Ludgate scheme, one of the largest development projects in the City of London, has now been completed. Situated between Holborn Viaduct and City Thameslink Station, Ludgate includes 392,000 sq ft of high quality office buildings, as well as shops, wine bars and restaurants. The buildings were designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, and great emphasis has been placed on user efficiency and providing a specification that is both flexible and facilitates the use of the latest office technology. Rents, through Jones Lang Wootton and Herring Baker

MARKET MOVES

Harris, are quoted at £32.50 per sq ft, with a fit-out option at no cost to the tenant. The project involved the creation of the first new rail station in the City of London for over 100 years, City Thameslink.

Bentley's best
BENTLEY & CO, the jeweller, has leased 8 New Bond Street in the West End for a new flagship store, appropriately situated opposite Asprey's and adjacent to Cirio, Lynton plc, who let the property, was asking for offers over £120,000 a year for the building, which has 1,972 sq ft of space on five floors, and reports strong competition. Peter Clegg of Lynton said that Bentley's had been in Bond Street for many years and that the new shop provided a "distinguished" addition to the streetscape, while also adding a valuable property to Lynton's investment portfolio.

Edinburgh link
DESCRIBED as the "jewel in the Crown" of Edinburgh's financial, professional and commercial business community, 8 Charlotte Square is for sale through Ryden and Howell Brooks because of the

planned relocation of its present occupier, 31.

The building, designed by Robert Adam, provides 4,720 sq ft of office space. Hugh Rutherford of Ryden said that over the next few years there was likely to be an extension of the prime central business district to the south of Princes Street, and Charlotte Square would represent the main axis linking the central and west end business areas with the new large scale office developments. The asking price has not been disclosed.

St James's HQ

DILLON READ, the American investment banker, has acquired nearly 8,000 sq ft of air-conditioned offices at 12 St James's Square, London SW1. MEPC's headquarters building, from MEPC. The company has taken a ten-year lease, with a rent review at the fifth year and tenant's break clause, at £32.50 a sq ft. Dillon Read currently has offices in Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, which are

being surrendered to the landlord, Land Security. MEPC has relocated some of its staff internally to make room for the new tenants.

Break for Bovis

THE PHARMACEUTICAL company MSD Sharp & Dohme has appointed Bovis Grubb, the German subsidiary of P & O's Bovis International, to build a new headquarters building in Hilar, 12 miles east of Munich. The project involves the construction and fitting out of a three-storey, 270,000 sq ft building with an underground car park.

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Even Germany is retrenching

Rents and returns in the German market have declined recently

German property markets have hit turbulence after the rapid but smooth progression of recent years, and it looks as if they could be in for a bumpy ride over the next two years, according to a new report by Weatherall Green & Smith.

Prime office rents in Frankfurt and Berlin have fallen by between 10 per cent and 15 per cent over the last nine months.

The most notable feature of the previous four or five years was the substantial increase in office rents. Frankfurt and, more recently, Berlin led the way, but even in other centres large rises were recorded. Rents virtually doubled in unfashionable Essen.

In Frankfurt rents of DM 80-90 a sq metre per month are now likely to be obtained only for small suites in the very best buildings. More general rents, even in new buildings in the banking district of the Westend, range from DM 60 to a maximum of DM 75, at least DM 10 less than a year ago.

The party is also almost over in Berlin. There, rental values in the West Berlin Kurfurstendamm area rapidly rose to DM 80-90. They went even higher around Unter den Linden in the east of the city — easily the highest office rents in Germany. Now, a mood of growing caution has taken over.

The German office markets, however, cannot be compared with those in Britain or America. Vacancy rates in the principal German centres now stand at a mere 2-3 per cent, and are, says Weatherall's Chris Bull-Diamond, unlikely to rise to over 5-6 per cent by the mid 1990s despite the significant amount of new stock that is being constructed. Even so, rents could fall further, and negotiating advantage is now very much in tenants' favour.

Berlin: prime office rates have tumbled in the last nine months

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The German investment market slowed last year, with domestic institutions constrained by the cashflow re-

quirements of the former East. Yields for prime investments have softened perhaps by a quarter or half a per cent in the past 12-18 months. That said, the market is difficult to read, with some recent transactions reflecting the yields of the latter part of 1990, while others of apparently similar quality remain unsold even at discount prices.

Foreign investors have been relatively scarce during the first half of 1992. The formerly big-spending Dutch have found the yields below 5 per cent too low over the past two years, but could be attracted back as the yields soften. The Japanese have faced domestic difficulties and restrictions on foreign investment, but the French have been increasingly active, particularly in Düsseldorf and Berlin but also in Frankfurt.

Plenty of German money is available for investment. The German institutions have a surprising amount of cash available, while the private investor, often backed by the German banks, remains an important contributor to the property market.

It was thought that most private investment might be directed towards the former East, with its chance of high yields and generous depreciation allowances. This has yet to happen, though, and it is unlikely to happen until future development trends have been identified, and worries regarding a possibly overheated and oversupplied market have been eliminated.

ANNE STEADMAN

New town hopes

Yesterday the Commission for the New Towns announced it has agreed the sale of property and land assets, including the Marles shopping centre in Crawley, totalling nearly £25 million.

The announcement coincided with the publication of the Commission's annual report, which shows that more than £177 million was raised by the sale to the private sector of former development corporation assets in 20 English new towns.

Sir Neil Shields, the commission's chairman, acknowledged that the past year had been one of the most difficult since the commission was established in 1962. "The results are not as good as we hoped, but better than perhaps we expected." The commission has extended its role by taking on the remaining assets at Telford and at Milton Keynes. Sir Neil said: "The commission has inherited the assets of the former development corporations in all the English new towns, and is therefore able to offer an unrivalled choice for owner-occupation and investment purposes."

There are more than 1,000 overseas firms in the new towns, including 110 from Japan. The commission will visit Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan next month and America in the spring.

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England selectors book Underwood double act

17/10/19



Patterson, who took over a year ago after Ruddock's second defeat by Tyson, said his charge was "right on schedule" and weighed around 230lb. "When they asked me to take him over, I wanted to look at him first," Patterson said. "He had no defence. He has learnt so many punches and I would take him to beat Tyson now. I expect him to beat Lewis and win the world title."

Tomorrow, they play their first match against Scotland and the North region. The next fortnight sees a game in Gateshead against the England under-21s on Saturday, at Reading against South Region on Monday, against a County side in Surrey on October 28, at Chelmsford against East Essex on October 30, a coaching clinic in Derby and, finally, a match against East Midlands in Nottingham on November 1, before flying home on November 2. Victoria have brought a squad of only ten players.

Reilly juggles his options

Reilly, the Britain coach, will announce his team today but his counterpart, Bobby Fulton, selected his side yesterday. Except for three players missing because of injury, Britain will face 14 of the Australians who beat them 16-10 in bruising fashion at Lang Park 16 weeks ago.

Mark Sargeant's inclusion as a prop for Paul Harragon, who damaged a hand during Australia's unbeaten three-match tour, is a straightforward giant-for-giant replacement. Any weaknesses would appear to exist in the back line.

Two centres, both playing out of position in crucial roles, is hardly ideal. Tim Brasher

Here, the influence of Garry Schofield, likely to move to centre, and a partnership of Shaun Edwards and Deryck Fox at half back, could prove critical.

This assumes that Ward and Andy Platt in the front row can build a platform around the rocks — an area dominated by Australia in Brisbane and where they clearly intend to assert their authority again.

son while Brad Fittler is still novice at stand-off half.

Otherwise, pace and overwhelming power extended throughout the side from M. Meninga, scorer of 18 tries and 91 goals in a record 31 internationals at centre, to the devastating second-row combination of Bob Lindner, 16st, and Paul Sironen, 17st.

Should Reilly keep faith with Ellery Hanley at loose forward, he and the likely second-row pairing of Phil Clarke and Denis Betts will have the job of moving up to stiffen Australia's swift play-the-ball tactic and gaining mo-

□ Britain will play before world record crowd against Australia at Wembley. Ticket sales for the match have gone past the 70,500 mark - beating the 70,204 for one of the 1932 Anglo-Australia matches in Sydney.

Durham commence title defence by beating rivals

04-106-13



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Leeds have armoury to enjoy the spoils

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